COTTON DRIFTING ARC

1

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

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Higurashi
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COTTON DRIFTING ARC

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I CANNOT QUENCH YOUR THIRST.
BECAUSE YOU WHO WANT THE TRUTH
WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

I CANNOT QUENCH YOUR THIRST.
BECAUSE THE TRUTH YOU HOPE FOR
DOESN'T EXIST.

EVEN SO, I WANT TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST.
BECAUSE I AM THE ONE WHO LEFT YOU IN THE DESERT.

Frederica Bernkastel

CHAPTER 1
HINAMIZAWA

Higurashi

WHEN THEY CRY

COTTON DRIFTING ARC

EARLY SUMMER, 1983, HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE

THIS IS THE VILLAGE OF HINAMIZAWA. I MOVED HERE THREE WEEKS AGO.

NOTHING CONVENIENT LIKE THAT.

HERE THEY DON'T HAVE ANY BURGER PLACES...

...ICE CREAM SHOPS, VENDING MACHINES—

THE SCHOOL EVEN COMBINES ALL THE GRADES INTO A SINGLE CLASS.

IT'S A SMALL VILLAGE, WITH A SMALL POPULATION.

...THE CRY OF THE HIGURASHI CICADAS...

ALL THEY DO HAVE HERE...

...IS THE RUSTLING OF THE TREES...

...THE BABBLING OF A CLEAR BROOK...

...AND...

TA (TMP) TA

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA...

NOT GOOD!

I OVER-SLEPT!

TA TA TA
た・た・た・

ZA (APPEAR)

KEI-CHAAN!

ZAWA (RUB)

YOUR BUTT'S AS NICE AS EVER!

NADE (GROPE)

NADE

GYA!!

!!

TA

TA

TA

MI-MION!?

AH-HA-HA! YOU SHOULDN'T OVERSLEEP, KEIICHI MAEBARA-KUN.

MION SONO-ZAKI.

AN UPPER-CLASSMAN AT OUR SCHOOL, AND THE PRESIDENT OF OUR CLUB.

NOT THAT THIS OLD MAN HAS A RIGHT TO TALK.

SINCE WE'RE HERE, LET'S RACE TO SEE WHO GETS THERE FIRST!

FIRST TO SIT IN THEIR SEAT WINS!

THIS EARLY IN THE MORN-ING...? DANG, YOU'RE ENER-GETIC...

AH-HA-HA! CAN YOU BEAT THIS OLD MAN, KEI-CHAN?

SHE'S A NOISY PUNK WHO LIKES COMPE-TITION.

DA (DASH)

READY? GO!

HEY, WAIT!

BUT THANKS TO HER, I'VE NEVER BEEN BORED SINCE I TRANS-FERRED HERE.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE A MAN'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH!

TOO SLOW, TOO SLOW! I'M GONNA BEAT YOU!

~TA (TMP)

TA

~TA

DAMMIT !!

GA (WHACK)

ZUTEEEEN (WHAAAAM)

AH!

BA (COVER)

M-MION?

OWWW.

IS THIS ANY TIME TO BE SHOWING COMPASSION FOR YOUR ENEMY!?

COME ON, KEI-CHAN, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A RACE!

JIII (GAAAZE)

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'LL BE LATE. COME ON, STAND UP.

—

LET'S GO!

Y- YEAH...

MION...

YOU GO IN FIRST. THE WAY THINGS WENT, YOU SHOULD HAVE WON, KEI-CHAN.

GARA (RATTLE)

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, LETTING SOMEONE ELSE WIN.

SOMEHOW, WE MADE IT ON TIME.

ZEE (WHEEZE)

HAA

HAA (HUFF)

EH...?

ZAPA (SPLASH)

KARAN (CLANG)

POTA (DRIP) POTA

OOOH

HO

WANA (TREMBLE)

WANA

SAATOOO-KOOOO! THIS WAS YOUR DOING?

OOOOH-HO-HO-HO! YOU FELL RIGHT INTO MY TRAP, KEIICHI-SAN!

SATOKO HOJO. SHE ALWAYS GETS ME WITH SOMETHING OR ANOTHER.

DAMN CON-CEITED LITTLE BRAT!

RIKA FURUDE-CHAN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S IN THE SAME YEAR AS SATOKO.

NIPAAA (BEEEEAM)

SLI (BRUSH)

NADE (PET) なでて

NADE なでて

CHEER UP, KEIICHI, SIR.

RIKA-CHAN.

YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GIRL, RIKA-CHAN.

KUUU (GRRRR)

EEK!

BAD CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED. AND I HAVE A POWERFUL FOREHEAD FLICK!

GUGU (STRRRAIN)

MUNZU (GRAB)

むんず!!

SA-TOKO, ON THE OTHER HAND!!

WH-WHAT!?

NADENADE (PET)
なでなで!!
HEY!!
NEXT TIME, SET UP AN EVEN BETTER TRAP!
スパーン
SUPAAAAN (LLLLLLLUNGE)
BUH!
OHHH!!
HN.
フーン
WAAAAAAHH!
ぅぉ〜ん
RIKAAA! KEIICHI-SAN'S BEING MEAN TO ME!
THERE, THERE, SATOKO. DON'T CRY, SIR.
BA (LUNGE)
ぱふ
OHHH
RENA RYUGU, THE SAME YEAR AS ME.
NORMALLY SHE'S A NICE, QUIET GIRL, BUT WHEN SHE SEES SOMETHING CUTE, SHE GOES CRAZY.
SURI (RUB) SURI
すりすり
MUGYU (SQUISH)
むぎゅ
YOU'RE SO ADOWABLE WHEN YOU'RE CWYING, SATOKO-CHAN!
I'M GONNA TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME. ♪
I C-CAN'T BREATHE, RENA-SAN!
M-MION?
AH-HA-HA! GULLIBLE AS EVER.

I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I? "FIRST TO SIT IN THEIR SEAT WINS."

WH-WHAT!?

HEE-HEE

ヒヒッ

KEI-CHAAAN.

HEH-HEH-HEH

DON'T TELL ME MION...

...KNEW THE TRAP WAS THERE AND DID IT ON PURPOSE...?

HA (GASP)

はっ

YOU CAN'T TELL HOW A COMPETITION WILL TURN OUT UNTIL THE END.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE, LET'S GET SETTLED. CLASS REP, GET US STARTED.

YES, MA'AM.

MIONNNNN!!

KARAAAN (CLAAANG)

KARAAAN

AH-HA-HA-HA! HURRY AND CHANGE SO YOU CAN SIT DOWN!

WHOA, SO YOU *HAVE* TO STUDY THIS HARD IN THE CITY?

NO, IT'S JUST THAT YOU GUYS ARE BEHIND.

UH-HUH. YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER, KEIICHI-KUN! YOU MUST STUDY A LOT.

HERE X EQUALS THREE. DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

$x = 3$

...THINKS WE SHOULD SPEND OUR VALUABLE YOUTH DOING SOMETHING MORE WORTH-WHILE.

INSTEAD OF WASTING TIME STUDYING, THIS OLD MAN...

RENA MADE A BIG LUNCH TODAY!

OOOOH!

KEI-CHAN, IT'S OVER, IT'S OVER! TIME FOR LUNCH!

PA (JUMP)

KARAAAN (CLAAANG)

KARAAAN

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, MION.

BUT WE LAUGH TOGETHER AND MAKE A LOT OF NOISE OVER DUMB LITTLE THINGS.

OUR GROUP IS MADE UP OF ALL DIFFERENT AGES AND GENDERS.

THIS CRO-QUETTE'S MINE!

I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT!

DAN (WHAM)

YOUR LUNCHES ARE THE BEST, RENA!

DIBS ON THIS ONE!

GHNNNNGH!

YOUR LUNCH IS YUMMY TOO, RIKA-CHAN! OHH!

YOU'RE A MUCH BETTER COOK THAN I AM, RENA, SIR.

THAT'S THE KIND OF AWESOME GROUP OF FRIENDS WE ARE.

NOW IT'S TIME TO HAVE FUN AT OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES! IT'S TIME!

WHAT CONTEST WILL WE HAVE TODAY, SIR?

KARAAAN (CLAAANG)

KARAAAN

OHH! WE *ARE* HAVING A PENALTY?

NIYA (LEER)

WELL, MION-SAN? WHAT WILL BE THE PENALTY GAME FOR TODAY?

YEAH!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO SIMPLE TODAY AND HAVE A CARD GAME!

GOSO (RUMMAGE)

GOSO

BUT NORMAL BAG-CARRYING WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN, SO...

GOOD QUESTION. HOW ABOUT THE PENALTY GAME STANDARD—CARRYING SCHOOL BAGS?

THE LOSER CARRIES THE WINNER'S BAG HOME FOR THEM.

WHY A MAID COS-TUME !!?

IT'S ADOW-ABLE, BUT NOOOO!

HOW ABOUT CARRYING THE BAG WHILE WEARING THIS!?

BIRAAAAN (FLUTTERRRR)

TA-DAA!!

S-S-SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY WRONG HERE! WHY WOULD YOU HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN YOUR LOCKER!!!?

HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH! HEH!

I EVEN HAVE AN EXTRA-LARGE JUST FOR YOU, KEI-CHAN. I HOPE YOU'RE READY.

AH!

I'LL BE FORCED TO PARADE AROUND THE VILLAGE IN A MAID OUTFIT...

MAID...! MAID...?

I HEAR THE MAEBARAS' BOY LIKES TO WEAR WOMEN'S CLOTHING.

OH-HO-HO-HO. THAT'S DREADFUL!

NO!!

IF I SLIP UP AND END UP THE LOSER...

TH-THIS IS BAD!

MAIDS!?

OHH!

RENA! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE PENALTY GAME IS!

YOU JUST HAVE TO WIN!!

BASH!!! (CLASP)

LET'S GO WITH NORMAL BAG-CARRYING.

BURU (TREMBLE) ブルブル

PLEASE? PLEASE?

SEE? KEIICHI-KUN'S FROZEN SOLID

BURU

SFX: JIOOOOOO (RRRRRRROOOOOAAAAARRRRRR)

EH!? OOOH!

RENA, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE. YOU MIGHT GET TO TAKE RIKA-CHAN OR SATOKO HOME WEARING A MAID COSTUME...

BO (FLUSH) ぼっ

IT IS OUR MISSION AS CLUB MEMBERS TO BOLDLY FACE THIS GAME!!

CLUB RULE NUMBER ONE! IT MAY BE A GAME, BUT GOING AT IT HALF-HEARTEDLY IS UNFOR-GIVABLE!!

おおおお

KEIICHI-KUN, YOU'RE ADOW-ABLE!

-GH.

ZUUUN (GLOOOOM)

AH-HA-HA! THAT'S A GOOD LOOK FOR YOU, KEI-CHAN!

SFX: BUN (SHAKE) BUN

SHHH, KEI-CHAN! IF YOU JUMP AROUND LIKE THAT...

I WILL KILL YOU!!

DOOON (BOOOOM)

...EVERYONE WILL SEE THAT YOU'RE WEARING GIRL'S UNDER-WEAR TOO.

BRAAAN (FLIIIP)

EH HEH.

GYAAA! DON'T FLIP MY SKIRT!!

URK!

SUPAPAAAAN (KABAAAAM)

WELL, THIS IS MY STOP.

GYUUUUUU (SQUEEEEEEZE)

SURI (RUB)

SURI

KAKU (SHAKE)

PIKU (TWITCH)

PIKU

KAKU

YOU'RE SO A-A-ADOW-ABLE WHEN YOU'RE BASHFUL, KEIICHI-KUN! I-I-I-I-I-I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!

THANKS FOR CARRY-ING MY BAG! MAID-KUN!

SHUT UP!!

DAN (STAMP)

AH-HA-HA! LATER!

HIRA (WAVE)

HIRA

THANKS FOR THE SHOW!

MII-CHAN'S BEEN SO CHIPPER SINCE YOU MOVED HERE, KEIICHI-KUN.

SHE SAYS SHE'S FOUND A GOOD RIVAL.

DAMN YOU, YOU ENJOY OTHERS' MIS-FORTUNES WITH ALL YOUR HEART, DON'T YOU?

GHNNNGH!

HEE-HEE-HEE. MII-CHAN LOOKS HAPPY.

YOU TWO SURE ARE CLOSE.

HEE HEE HEE.

And when Mii-chan is enjoying herself, Rena's happy too!

Yup!

OHH!!

I LOST EVERY MATCH TODAY, BUT I WON'T LET IT END LIKE THIS. SOMEDAY, I WILL PAY HER BACK.

HEH HEH HEH

WHAT AN ADOWABLE SCARECROW! OHHHH!☆

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!!?

I'M TAKING IT HOME WITH ME! ☆

DON'T MAKE ME PLAY THE STRAIGHT MAN IN THIS GETUP!

OHH

CUT IT OUT!!

ZUPO (POP)

YORO (STAGGER)

I...I MADE IT.

GACHA (KA-CHAK)

PITA (STOP)

OH, WELCOME HOME, KEIICHI.

I MADE IT HOME WITHOUT RUNNING INTO ANYONE!! I WAS WORRIED FOR A WHILE, WITH MION'S SEXUAL HARRASSMENT AND RENA'S RAMPAGE!

AH

HA

HA

HA

HA

SFX: PAKU (STAMMER) PAKU

TH-THIS...

IS A PENALTY GAME...

K-KEI-ICHI...

D-DAD!!

PORO (PROP)

AH

あっはっ

HA

はっ

HA

はっ

HA

ZURU (DRAG)

ZURU

ずるずる

離して

LET GO OF MEEEE!

おおおお

NOOOOOO!!

KEIICHI!! LET'S TALK IN MY WORKSHOP! DON'T TELL YOUR MOTHER!!

HEH-HEH

GASHI (CLASP)

EH? FOR ME?

KEICHI! TELE-PHONE!

DAD HAS THE ECCENTRIC OCCUPA-TION OF PAINTER.

WE EVEN MOVED HERE BECAUSE DAD SAID HE WANTED TO HAVE A WORKSHOP IN HINAMIZAWA.

IT'S NOT! SHE'S JUST A GIRL FROM CLASS!

HEE-HEE

ふふっ

TA (STEP)

TA

TA

TA

YOUR MOTHER IS SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU HAVING SO MUCH FUN SINCE WE MOVED HERE, KEIICHI.

EH?

IT'S A GIRL.

Ah-ha-ha! Here's a chance for you to get your revenge, Kei-chan!

Tomorrow's Sunday. Let's all get together for club activities.

WHAT!?

MION!? WHY YOU! WHAT YOU DID TODAY—

HELLO?

Kei-chan, it's Mion!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO GET BACK AT YOU!!!

I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET INVITING ME!!

GO GO GO GO GO

GRUMBLE.

YOU BET!

HEH HEH HEH. MION...

Kei-chan?

AH HA HA!

I can't wait! Then I'll see you tomorrow at one, at our usual meeting place!

We're going to Okinomiya, so bring your bike.

OKINOMIYA IS THE CLOSEST TOWN TO HINAMIZAWA.

SIGN: SONOZAKI BREAD

50 M 先

SIGN: 50M AHEAD

IT HAS A STATION FROM AN OLD TRAIN LINE...

...AND IS A LITTLE MORE PROSPEROUS THAN HINAMIZAWA.

WE'RE HERE!

COME ON, GET INSIDE!

SIGN (R): TOY STORE

ZAWA (MURMUR)

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE PEOPLE ...?

ZAWA

おもちゃのお店

ADOWABLE TOYS!

ゲーム大会 御宮店

BANNER: GAME TOURNAMENT OKINOMIYA STORE

SOMETIMES WE HAVE EVENTS TO ATTRACT CUSTOMERS, SO NOW WE'RE HAVING A GAME TOURNAMENT.

SURPRISED? I'M GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE GUY WHO RUNS THIS STORE.

THIS IS WHERE CLUB IS MEETING TODAY?

DON'T TELL ME.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I WON'T GIVE UP THE CHAMPI-ONSHIP!!

LIL'

ACK!

SFX: GUGU (CLLLENCH)

THAT MION. SHE'S SERIOUS ENOUGH ABOUT THIS TO THROW AWAY ALL CONCERN FOR APPEAR-ANCES.

HIRI HIRI (STIIIING)

FIFTY THOU-SAND!?

DON (WHAM)

FIRST PRIZE TODAY IS FIFTY THOUSAND YEN!!

BA (TJRND)

WHAT!?

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? MION-SAN IS PAY-ING THE FIFTY THOUSAND YEN PRIZE MONEY OUT OF HER OWN POCKET.

I'M TAKING IT HOME WITH ME!

MION ISN'T THE ONLY ONE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

HOOOO-HO-HO-HO

ホーホホホ

NIPAAA (BEEEEAM)

ニパー

NOT ONE OF THEM CAN HIDE THEIR THIRST FOR BLOOD.

I'LL DO MY BEST SIR

HEH HEH HEH HEH

MION, THAT PUNK.

SHE PULLED OUT THE DEMONS THAT LURKED INSIDE HER BY PUSHING HERSELF TO THE BRINK OF DEATH.

TH-THAT'S JUST FINE WITH ME!!

GU (CLENCH)

THERE WILL BE FIFTEEN PARTICIPANTS. YOU WILL DRAW FROM THIS BOX TO FIND OUT WHICH OF THE FIVE TABLES YOU WILL PLAY AT. WE'LL TAKE ONE WINNER FROM EACH TABLE.

WELL, LET ME EXPLAIN THE RULES.

EACH WINNER WILL ADVANCE TO THE FINALS, LIKE IN A TOURNA-MENT.

ALL RIGHT, EVERY-ONE, PICK A TABLE.

THE MANAGER HERE WILL DECIDE WHAT GAME WILL BE PLAYED AT EACH TABLE. UNDER-STAND?

PI (POINT)

THE WINNER GETS TO GIVE ONE ORDER TO EACH OF THE LOSERS!

I FIGURED AS MUCH. WHAT'S THE PENALTY?

HEH!

OF COURSE YOU PROBABLY KNOW THIS, BUT THERE WILL BE A PENALTY GAME FOR CLUB MEMBERS.

AH-HA-HA
あはは

DON'T EMBARRASS ME BY LOSING YOUR FIRST MATCH, KEI-CHAN.

HOW CAN OUR CLUB, THE BEST OF THE BEST, SLIP UP BADLY ENOUGH TO LOSE TO THESE LITTLE CHICKIES?

NN? BUT WHAT IF ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS FAIL OUT?

NN?
ん?

SO WE GET A PENALTY GAME EVEN IF WE'RE NOT IN LAST PLACE.

YOU'RE IN MY CLASS AT SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?

NN ...?

SO I'M UP AGAINST THESE TWO, HUH...?

SO MY FIRST MATCH IS AGAINST MY UNDER-CLASS-MEN?

IT'LL BE EASY TO PLAY THESE TWO. LUCK IS ON MY SIDE...!!

GU (CLENCH)

PEKO (BOW)

YES, I'M OKA-MURA.

I'M TOMITA.

ALL RIGHT, I'LL HAVE YOU THREE PLAY THIS!

THE MILLION-AIRE GAME.

YOU SPIN THE WHEEL AND HEAD FOR THE FINISH LINE.

WHOEVER WINDS UP WITH THE MOST MONEY AT THE END IS THE WINNER!!

TOMITA-KUN! OKAMURA-KUN! I WILL CRUSH YOU WITHOUT MERCY!

START PLAYING !!

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, YOU'RE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF A CHILD. YOU GET FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM EACH PLAYER.

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE YOU GET A FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR BONUS FROM THE BANK

ONE, TWO, THREE PROCEED TO THE SUC-CESSFUL CAREER COURSE!

A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR BONUS!

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR BONUS!!

WHAT!?

FOR SOME REASON I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T LANDED ON ANY GOOD SPACES FOR A WHILE

HM? WAIT A SECOND

I... I GET IT. THIS GAME IS COM-PLETELY BASED ON LUCK.

WHAT CAN I DO BUT LEAVE EVERY-THING TO LUCK!!?

THAT'S OUR UNDEFEATED EMPEROR!

HEH!

MION... DON'T TELL ME SHE'S ALREADY WON?

THIS IS BAD! HOW ARE THE OTHER CLUB MEMBERS DOING!?

はっ

BA (LOOK)

スパパパーン

DDDDH!

SUPAPAPAAN (WHA-WHA-WHAAAM)

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE IMPRESSED. I'M IN TROUBLE...

WHEN RENA'S IN "ADOWABLE MODE," SHE DOESN'T GO HALFWAY.

GODDESS OF SPEED RENA! I'M IMPRESSED.

はう。

OHH!

SFX: SURI (RUB) SURI

すりすり

I'M TAK-ING IT HOME WITH ME! ♪

THIS CARD IS ADOW-ABLE!

スパーン

SUPAAAN

EVEN A DOG ON A WALK...

LIKE A BUD-DHIST PRAYER ...

GOT IT!

GOT IT!

WHOA.

スパーン

SUPAAAN

BAH (SNATCH)

SORRY, HOJO! THE ACE OF HEARTS IS MINE!

SATOKO'S TABLE IS PLAYING CONCENTRATION...

I WAS SURE THIS WAS THE ACE OF HEARTS!!

H-HOW!!?

SHE CHEATED AND SWITCHED THE CARD!

TRAP MASTER SATOKO!

THAT'S TOO BAD.

PI (FLIP)

THIS IS THE ACE OF HEARTS!

...

YAY, SIR!

KYUN (PLUNK)

Rika-chan wins by a landslide! Wooow!

You're so good at this, Rika-chan!

DEREEE (DROOOOL)

PAAA (BEEEAM)

OOOH, I CAUGHT ONE, SIR!

KILLS-WITH-CHARM RIKA! SHE'S NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!!

THAT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A CONTEST AT ALL.

I-I CAN'T HELP IT! THERE'S NO STRATEGY IN THIS GAME! YOU JUST SPIN THE WHEEL!!

HYOKO (POP)

ARE YOU LOSING, KEIICHI-KUN? ARE YOU LOSING?

GIKU (GULP)

KKGGHH! THEY'RE ALL SURE TO WIN!

H-HEY, MI...

BASA (RUSTLE)

YOU DISAP-POINT ME, KEI-CHAN...

SIIIGH

DOKI (BADUM)

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SERI-OUSLY" !!?

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO CONTROL THE WHEEL BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL!?

EVERYONE IS TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY.

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

...YOU WOULD HAVE FINISHED THAT GAME TEN SECONDS AFTER T STARTED.

IF YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, KEI-CHAN...

EVERYONE EXCEPT YOU, KEI-CHAN.

SERIOUS...? IF I'M SERIOUS...!?

IF I WAS SERIOUS?

!?

EVERYONE WAS PRAYING FOR MY VICTORY! THEY BELIEVED IN ME!!

BECAUSE I WASN'T SERIOUS !!?

AND I LET THEM DOWN!?

GASHI (CLASP)

WAH !!

I'LL SHOW YOU...WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET SERIOUS!-!

ALL RIGHT, MION...!!

LET ME WIN!!

TOMITA-KUN, OKAMURA-KUN, LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

YOU WANT TO GET THE GIRLS YOU LIKE, DON'T YOU? HMMM?

FIRST OF ALL, TOMITA-KUN, YOU'RE AFTER SATOKO, RIGHT? AND YOU LIKE RIKA-CHAN, RIGHT, OKAMURA-KUN?

ぼぼっ BOBO (FLUUUSH)

ぼっ BO (FLUSH)

SFX: AWA (FLUSTER) AWA

LET ME FINISH TALKING !!

MA-MAE-BARA-SAN! NO VIO-LENCE!

あわ

あわ

I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU.

IF I WIN, I CAN ORDER THE CLUB MEMBERS TO DO WHATEVER I WANT!

LS CLUB MEMBERS HAVE A PENALTY GAME SET UP, SEPARATE FROM THE REGULAR CONTES-TANTS.

BUT...! MAEBARA-SAN, HOW CAN YOU...

AWA AWA (FLUSTER)

あわ、あわ、

GIVE THEM... YOU MEAN FURUDE AND HOJO ...?

LISTEN CARE-FULLY!

IF I WIN, TOMITA-KUN! I'LL PUT A COLLAR ON SATOKO AND MAKE HER YOUR LITTLE SISTER FOR A DAY!

OKAMURA-KUN! I'LL PUT A LEASH ON A CAT-EARED RIKA-CHAN AND LET YOU WALK HER!

NII-NII

BU (SPURT)

BU

MEW

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEADS! YOU CAN JUST SAY I FORCED YOU TO!!!

I-I-I-I-I COULDN'T!!

DO IT.

.....

.....

.....

.....YES, SIR.

I WONDER HOW IT WENT!? I WONDER!?

GAME OVER !!

DAN! (BAM!)

KIRARI (SPARKLE)

BI (POINT)

WITH MY COMPLETE VICTORY!

SFX: ZAWA (MURMUR) ZAWA

HN. TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!

HEH-HEH-HEH

IS THIS WHAT YOU MEAN BY ME BEING SERIOUS?

AMAZING, KEIICHI-KUN!

HA HA HA HA HA

WH-WHAT!?

DOOOO (RUUUSH)

ALL RIGHT!! MION! NEXT I'LL TAKE YOU ON DIRECTLY!!

I GOT A CALL FROM MY UNCLE. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO WORK THE REGISTER AT HIS PLACE.

AND HERE YOU GOT ALL FIRED UP FOR IT. BAD LUCK.

NNGAAAHH !!

SORRY, KEI-CHAN. I HAVE TO GO TO WORK NOW. ☆

EH-HEH

ZUTE (FALL)

WE'LL MAKE ANOTHER CHANCE TO GET EXCITED, OKAY!?

THAT'S TOO BAD.

OH... WELL, IF IT'S YOUR JOB, I GUESS YOU CAN'T HELP IT.

WAAAH!

HERE'S YOUR REWARD FOR TODAY.

WITH YOUR HELP, THE EVENT WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

THANKS FOR TODAY, EVERY-ONE.

I GOT...

GASA (RUSTLE)

NOTHING FOR RELA-TIVES!

DON'T I GET ONE, YOSHIROU-OJISAN?

BOOOO.

きゃっきゃっ KYA! KYA!

ADDWABLE!

YAY, SIR!

WAAAH!

ADOWABLE

FUWA (FLOAT)

NNNNGH

AH-HA-HA-HA!

あはは…

WELL, IT IS CUTE...

KEI-CHAN GOT THE ONE THAT FITS HIM THE LEAST!

BUT A DOLL ...?

SFX: KUSU (SNICKER) KUSU

IF YOU KEEP IT, KEI-CHAN, YOU'RE SURE TO BE TREATED LIKE A PERVERT. YUP!

HEH

THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.

SHOULD I GIVE IT TO MION?

MION'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T GET A GIFT.

YOU CAN HAVE IT.

PAAA (BEEEAM)

YOU'RE GIVING IT TO RENA!?

WOW, THANKS♡ KEIICHI-KUN!

I'M TAK-ING YOU HOME WITH ME!

KURU (SPIN)

KURU

GIRLY STUFF LIKE THIS IS PERFECT FOR RENA.

YOU'RE NO GOOD WITH GIRLY STUFF, ARE YOU, MION?

PA (GRIN)

HEH-HEH. YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL.

NI (GRIN)

SOMETIMES I WONDER WHY I WASN'T BORN A MAN.

BAN (BAM)

BAN

IT'S GOOD YOU'RE A WOMAN. IF YOU WERE A MAN, I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU LONG AGO.

YOU'D BETTER KILL ME NOW, WHILE YOU CAN.

OR ELSE YOU'LL REGRET IT AFTER YOU'RE DEAD.

AH-HA-HA

MION-CHAN, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU...

OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

LATER!

I HAD THE BEST TIME TODAY!

YEAH!

AT THE TIME, I...

...DIDN'T KNOW.

I THOUGHT THESE DAYS...

...WOULD GO ON FOREVER.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WOULD COME TO A SUDDEN END.

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL.

KANA KANA KANA...

OH, THE HIGURA-SHI ARE CRYING.

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA...

SIGN: IRIE CLINIC

I WONDER IF OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE WILL STRIKE AGAIN THIS YEAR...?

EVENING IN HINAMIZAWA.

CHAPTER 2

THE CRY OF THE HIGURASHI...

KANA KANA KANA

THE TREES, RUSTLING IN THE WIND.

THE LONG, STRETCHING SHADOWS OF THE MOUNTAINS.

AND ME, RUNNING THROUGH THEM...

CHAPTER 2
ANGEL MORT

1983, HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE

DAN (STOMP) DAN DAN

BAN (SLAM)

UH...

UNNGH ...

UWAAAAHH!

BA (WHAM)

はぁ

HAA (HUFF)

はぁ

HAA

H-HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

TODAY'S CLUB ACTIVITY IS RICH MAN POOR MAN!

DON (BAM)

REVOLU-TION!!

BA

I WAS ON A ROLL TODAY !!

...AND WON LIKE CRAZY!!

COUNTER REVOLU-TION!!

I WON AND WON ...

TWO ONES!!

BA (BAM)

IT WAS TRULY THE SPRING-TIME OF THIS WORLD !!!

おはぱバリゲー

AH-HA-HA! IT'S THE PENALTY GAME!

I WON EVERY GAME!! I THRUST THEM TO PENALTY HELL!

DHH

GRRR!

THAT TICKLES, MASTER.

PATA (FLAP)

ぱたぱた

PATA

LAP PILLOW

MEW

ONII-SAMA, I HAVE YOUR COLD DRINK!

OKAY!! GIVE ME ALL YOU'VE GOT!!

AND YET!!

AND YET...

THE FINAL PENALTY GAME!! HOW ABOUT COMBIN-ING ALL THE PENALTY GAMES!?

AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT TURNED INTO THIS!!

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

OHH!

HO-HO-HO

NIPAAA (BEEEAAM)

DOOOON (GOOOOONG)

WOULD YOU AND YOUR FATHER GO OUT TO EAT?

YOUR MOTHER HAS A BIT OF A HEADACHE. I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE DINNER TONIGHT...

SU (POKE)

KEIICHI ...

KON (KNOCK)

KON

IT MUST BE A CONSPIR-ACY!

GAAAHHH!

WHAT!?

KEIICHI.

SFX: DARA DARA DARA (SWEAT)

O-OKAY, BUT... WHAT ABOUT YOU, MOM...?

OH...

I CAN MANAGE SOMETHING FOR MYSELF.

SO THIS CLUB YOU'RE IN IS THE DRAMA CLUB?

NIKO (SMILE)

wAAAA AAHH!!

GWAAH!

WORK HARD.

LET'S GO, KEIICHI!

COMING!

NIKKO (SMILE) NIKKO

LET'S GO THERE!

GUESS WHAT! YOUR DAD FOUND A GREAT RESTAURANT IN OKINOMIYA!

MY DAD'S SO PARTICULAR ABOUT FOOD! FOR HIM TO COMPLIMENT A PLACE OPENLY...!!!

GAKOOON (KLAAAANG.

WHAT THE HECK KIND OF RESTAURANT IS IT!?

Angel Mort

Angel Mort

SIGN NEW DESSERT

THE FOOD ...

.. IS AVER-AGE ..

SPX: NIMAAA (GRIIIIN)

WHO CARES ABOUT THE FOOD?

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ANGEL MORT, KEIICHI?

KACHA (CLINK)

KACHA

HOW MAY I HELP YOU?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT-ING

AREN'T THEY NICE? THE WAIT-RESSES' UNIFORMS? ♪

DEREEE (VROOM)

COULD IT BE THAT THIS RESTAU-RANT...

スパパーン

SUPAPAAAN (KAPOOOW)

NOW SEE HERE! YOUR FATHER CERTAINLY DID NOT COME HERE WITH SUCH WICKED INTENTIONS!

THIS FIST IS THE LEAST I CAN DO TO HONOR MY PARENTS!!

ドカッ

NNGAAH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO YOUR FATHER!?

BRINGING YOUR KID TO A PLACE LIKE THIS!

I WANTED YOU TO FEEL IT TOO, KEIICHI!!!

BON (BOOM)

BAN (BAM)

THE IMPRES-SION I GET FROM THESE COSTUMES!

THE ARTISTIC INSPIRA-TION!!

BUWAH (FLOOD)

SUPAAAN (POOOW)

しほっ KAHA!

SON PUNCH !!!

ふうー OHHH

S-SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LOOK!

STILL, THESE UNI-FORMS...

CRAP. NOW THAT I'M ALONE, I'M GETTING NERVOUS.

DOKI (BADUM) DOKI DOKI

HURRY AND GET BACK HERE, DAD!

FUSHUUUU (FSSSHHH)

いい

うう

WAIT, KEIICHI! YOUR DAD NEEDS TO GO TO THE BATHROOM! THE BATHROOM!!!

!?

NGH!

H-HERE'S YOUR DESSERT...

EH?

MI... ON...?

KE-

KE-

KEI-CHAAAAN!?

YOU'RE MION...

YOU'RE MION, AREN'T YOU...?

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING AT PLACE LIKE THIS FOR!!?

うわおおっ UWAAAAHH!

おう AU! (WHIMPER)

AH!

おう AU...

UH!

I'M HELPING...

IT'S MY UNCLE'S RESTAU-RANT...

THAT'S RIGHT! RIGHT NOW, I'M A CUSTOM-ER!

I'M IN A HIGHER POSITION THAN MION!!

AH!

HOLD ON. THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ABOUT HERE.

I'LL PAY HER BACK DOUBLE FOR ALL THE HUMILIATION FROM CLUB!!

BIKU (WINCE)

MIIIIO-ONNNN!

GOGOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

EH?

JIRO (STARE)

WOW, YOU'RE PRETTY WELL-ENDOWED, MION.

EH?

OOOHH, THEY COULD SPILL OUT OF THAT COSTUME AT ANY SECOND!

JIRO

REALLY, YOU LIKE GETTING MEN'S ATTENTION, DON'T YOU?

GEH-HEH-HEH

IT'S NO USE PRETENDING TO BE EMBARRASSED.

N-NO...

AH, UH

KAAAA (BLUSHHHH)

H-HEY...

DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT!

あぁ

あぁ

HER FOOLISHNESS EXPOSED AFTER THINKING NO ONE WOULD SEE HER, SHE TURNS BRIGHT RED! SEEING YOU LIKE THIS SENDS MY BLOOD PRESSURE THROUGH THE ROOF! TO PUT IT IN ONE PHRASE...

THE NORMALLY AGGRAVATING TOMBOY CLASS REP CHARACTER RUNS INTO A CLASSMATE SHE NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET, WEARING A SKIMPY UNIFORM THAT SHOWS HER ACTUALLY REALLY NICE FIGURE!!

NO, NOT THAT !!

OHHH, I COULD TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME. ☆

REROOON (DROOOOL)

かぁ

UH...
NO.
はあ HAA (HUFF)
BUT... I MEAN... YOU LOOK GOOD...
はあ HAA
MION... MION... MIO-MIO-MIO...

I'M!!
UM!!

B-BUT...
THAT REALLY IS SOME UNIFORM.
IT EMPHASIZES HOW HUGE YOUR BREASTS ARE, MION. GOOD GRACIOUS!
あう AU (WHIMPER)
あう AU
Um...
That is...

しん SHIN (SILENCE)

NOT MION!!

えっ!?
HUH?
MION'S TWIN SISTER.
YES...
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?
SHION ...? SISTER ...?
キリ
GIKU (GULP)
BUT YOU CALLED ME "KEI-CHAN" EARLIER ...
I... I'M... NOT MION...
I'M SHION SONO-ZAKI.

THAT'S RIGHT... IF THIS WERE OUR MION...

HMMM.

THE PICTURE WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT...

OHH, YOU'RE ADDWABLE!

STOP IT!

MY, MY, WHAT A WONDER-FUL OUTFIT

SHE'LL TAKE YOU HOME WITH HER SIR

じ〜っ

JI~ (GLANCE)

うる

URU (TEAR)

ERGH.

ZUKI (STING)

TH-THAT'S BECAUSE I KNEW WHO YOU WERE. ONEE IS ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT YOU...

THAT'S KIND OF HARD TO SWALLOW...

MION IS A MAJOR TOMBOY ...

THAT'S RIGHT.

SO THIS MION...

ALWAYS SO FULL OF CONFIDENCE...

OUR TRUSTY LEADER.

OH.

SORRY FOR MIXING YOU UP.

SHION!

なお

PAA (BEEEAM)

NO...

I'M GLAD YOU UNDER-STAND!

I HEARD BEFORE THAT SHE WORKED PART TIME AT YOUR UNCLE'S PLACE. SO THIS IS WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

OUR RELATIVES HAVE A LOT OF OTHER SHOPS... ACTUALLY, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME AT THIS ONE...

SO...

YOU'RE MY FIRST CUSTOMER, KEI-CHAN.

EH HEH HEH

EH?

DOESN'T MION EVER COME HELP OUT HERE?

WELL... ONEE DOESN'T REALLY LIKE CUTE THINGS LIKE THIS...

I KNEW SHE'D SAY THAT.

THERE'S NO WAY THAT UNIFORM WOULD LOOK GOOD ON MION.

YEAH. I THINK IT WAS THE RIGHT THING FOR *YOU* TO COME HERE, SHION-CHAN.

EH?

BUT IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU, SHION-CHAN.

Ah...

Wh-what...

KAAA (BLUUUSH)

...do you mean...

...by that...?

POW (GLOOOW)

PA (TURN)

AH, YES, OKAY!

SONOZAKI-SAN, YOU CAN GO ON BREAK NOW!

HA! (GASP!)

PEKO (BOW)

WELL, I'M OFF, THEN.

YEAH! SORRY FOR THINKING YOU WERE MION AND TEASING YOU.

I'M GONNA TELL ONEE WHAT YOU DID TO ME TODAY!

KUSU (SNICKER)

SHE'LL AVENGE ME IN CLUB!

THAT MION...

HA HA.

I DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD A SIDE LIKE THAT.

NYAAA!

AH-HA-HA

THAT'S FINE WITH ME! I'LL GET HER BEFORE SHE GETS ME!

JIII (STAAARE)

GASP!

I THOUGHT SO, BUT I WAS WRONG. SHE SAYS SHE'S HER TWIN SISTER. I MIXED THEM UP BECAUSE THEY LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE.

WAS THAT GIRL A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL?

KARAN! (JANGLE)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

MM-HMM むふ～ん

THAT'S EXACTLY THE CASE, DAMN DAD...

She runs into a classmate while wearing an embarrassing outfit and immediately lies that she's her twin sister...

It'd be nice if that was the case. ☆

AAAAAH!!

WHAT'LL I SAY WHEN I SEE MION TOMORROW?

"I MET YOUR SISTER!"

BUT THE PERSON I MET TODAY WAS "SHION."

AH

AH

JOKER

HIRA (FLUTTER)

SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

FYA まか まか FYA

I'M SORRY, KEIICHI-KUN! I'M SORRY!

OOOOH, MY TONGUE IS IN LOVE! KEI-CHAN'S MOM IS A GENIUS!

OH MY! KEIICHI-SAN BROUGHT A YAKI-NIKU LUNCH TODAY!

POOR, POOR THING, SIR.

BUT I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY SIR

NADE なで"

NADE (PET) なで"

ぐるう

GURUU (GRUMP)

AH-HA-HA あっはっは

YOUR LUNCH IS FORFEIT!

KEI-CHAN GETS THE PENALTY GAME!!

NOOO !!!

HAGAAAH! はむ!!

A SMALL BOUT BEFORE LUNCH

ふにふにふに

WELL, THIS IS MY STOP.

I HAVE WORK AGAIN TODAY.

GESSORI (HUNGRY)

WE DON'T STOCK UP ON SNACKS AT HOME. AND WE'RE JUST ABOUT OUT OF INSTANT RAMEN.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING AT HOME? DO YOU?

AH HA HA

IF YOU DEAL WITH IT AND WAIT UNTIL DINNER, I'M SURE IT WILL BE DELICIOUS.

EH !?

Ohhh!!

YOU'RE A WAITRESS, MII-CHAN!? WHERE DO YOU WORK!?

AH!

GIKU (GULP)

HMMM?

HA HA

EH !?

WAITRESSING MUST BE HARD WORK, AFTER ALL.

IT WEARS ME OUT, WORKING JOBS I'M NOT USED TO.

I-I'M SORRY! YOU LOOK SO ALIKE, I GOT YOU MIXED UP!

SHION IS THE WAIT-RESS !!!

N-NO!! I... THAT'S RIGHT! I WATCH THE TOY STORE!!

CRAP! THAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE!

KAKIIN (FREEEEZE)

かきーん

SHE'S MION'S TWIN SISTER.

THEY LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME, BUT ACT LIKE EXACT OPPOSITES.

?

WHO IS SHION? WHO?

KAAAA— (BLUUUUUSH)

かぁ——っ

MM? ん?

K-K-K-KEI-CHAAAN!

きし KEE-HEE-HEE

UNLIKE MION, SHION IS AN ADOWABLE GIRL WHO LOOKS GOOD WITH A BASHFUL SMILE.

SHION LIVES WITH OUR PARENTS IN OKINOMIYA.

UM, WELL... THAT IS, YOU KNOW, REMEMBER? I LIVE AT BATCHA'S HOUSE.

I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HER AT MII-CHAN'S HOUSE.

HMM, REALLY? RENA'S NEVER MET HER...

ACK, SORRY! I HAVE TO HURRY TO WORK!

CHA (RUSH)

ちゃ

HMM, RENA WANTS TO MEET HER SOMEDAY.

KUSU (SNICKER)

くすっ

KUSU

くすっ

MII-CHAN WAS ACTING KIND OF CUTE. I WONDER WHY? I WONDER WHY?

LATER, RENA! KEI-CHAN!

PYUUU (ZOOOOM)

ぴゅー

PINPOOON (DING-DOOONG)

ピンポーン

IT'S OPEN...

KIII (CREEEAK)

キィ

EXCUSE ME!

I HAD MY LUNCH TAKEN FROM ME, AND I'M STARVING TO DEATH.

GUTEEEE (DEEEEAD)

ぐぅ

GUGYURUUU (GRRRUMBLE)

ぐぎゅるるる

YOU GOT A PROBLEM?

PIKU (TWITCH)

ぴくっ

PIKU

ぴくっ

KEI-CHAAAN? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HELLO!

NN?

THAT VOICE. THAT POLITE TONE...

SHION!?

ONEE TOLD ME THAT YOU MISSED LUNCH BECAUSE OF A PENALTY GAME.

WHY IS SHE HERE AGAIN ...?

Y-YEAH.

AND SO...

I THOUGHT SHE WAS A ONE-TIME ILLUSION.

SHION.

EH...? RELIEF ...!?

BA (BOLT)

I BROUGHT YOU SOME RELIEF, KEI-CHAN!

TA-DAA!

ペカー

PEKAAA (PRESENT)

I PACKED IT WITH THE LEFTOVERS ONEE MADE. IT'S NOT DINNERTIME YET, BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.

WOODOW

I CAN HAVE IT? THANKS!!

NO! I TOTALLY WANT IT!

PA (SNATCH)

IF YOU DON'T WANT ANY, THAT'S FINE. I'LL EAT IT MYSELF!

THERE ARE NOT!! UGH, I'M NOT MY SISTER, YOU KNOW!

D-DON'T TELL ME THERE'S TABASCO OR MUSTARD OR SEWING NEEDLES IN HERE!

HA! (GASP)

ぱっ

IT'S NOTHING THAT SPECIAL...

OH...

I WOULD LIKE TO SAVOR IT THOROUGHLY, NEVER FORGETTING HOW GRATEFUL I AM.

PLEASE GIVE THE LUNCH BOX BACK TO ONEE!

OH, RIGHT.

WELL, I'M ON MY WAY TO WORK, SO...

WHOA!

KAPA (POP)

ISN'T THIS A LITTLE FANCY FOR PACKED UP LEFTOVERS ...?

PIKAAAA (SPARKLE)

WOW.

PAKU (CHOMP)

THANKS, SHION...

MMM, YUM!

SHE DID THIS...

I MEAN, MION...

...FOR ME...?

JIIIN (SAVOR)

KYA KYA KYA

WAAAH!

OUR SCHOOL'S P.E. SURE IS SLOPPY.

THEY'RE ALL JUST PLAYING AROUND.

WE HAVE BETTER REFLEXES THAN YOU THINK, KEIICHI, SIR.

WE GET PLENTY OF EXERCISE THIS WAY.

おはは。
AH-HA-HA

SO HERE IT COMES AFTER ALL. AND HERE I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE A NAP OR SOMETHING.

NOW, THEN. IT'S NOT LIKE US TO LOUNGE AROUND LIKE THIS.

HEH-HEH-HEH

おー！

YEAH!

NOW! LET'S GO TO CLUB TIME!

I'M SORRY, SIR.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO DO, SIR.

SHE'S PRACTIC-ING FOR THE "COTTON DRIFT-ING"!

COTTON...?

AH! OH YEAH!

HUHHH? WHAT'S UP?

TO (CHOP)

TO

PON (HIT)

I'M SORRY, SIR.

OH YEAH. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ALL OF US.

I GUESS WE'LL GIVE UP ON CLUB FOR TODAY.

PEKO (BOW)

LATELY I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD MY ARMS HURT, SIR.

IT'S THIS SUNDAY! RIKA'S IN THE MIDDLE OF INTENSE TRAINING!

I CAN'T FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION.

WHAT'S THAT? COTTON-WHATSIT PRACTICE...?

GOOD LUCK!

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!

THE COTTON DRIFTING IS A FESTIVAL WE HAVE AT THE SHRINE ON A SUNDAY EVERY JUNE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS WILL BE YOUR FIRST, WON'T IT, KEI-CHAN?

LET'S SEE.

WE HOLD IT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT MOUNTAIN...

IT'S VERY LIVELY.

THERE ARE LOTS OF BOOTHS, AND PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER. NOT ONLY HINAMIZAWA, BUT OKINOMIYA AND OTHER TOWNS TOO.

AT FURUDE SHRINE.

IT HONORS THE GOD WE CALL "OYASHIRO-SAMA."

...IS A CEREMONY WHERE WE HOLD A SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OLD FUTON OR SOMETHING.

THE COTTON DRIFTING PART...

...AND SEND IT DRIFTING DOWN THE RIVER.

THEN WE TAKE THE COTTON FROM INSIDE IT...

...BY TEARING IT WITH A HOE.

THE PRIESTESS SACRIFICES THE FUTON...

AND!

AND!

OOHH, SO THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE COTTON DRIFTING...

想像図
IMAGINATION

RIKA-CHAN WILL BE THE PRIESTESS IN CHARGE OF THE CEREMONY!

SHE DOES FIT THE IMAGE TO A TEE.

HMM
ほー

OHH, SHE'S SO ADOWABLE ♥

WHOA! THAT WOULD BE HEAVY!!

RIKA PRACTICES WITH A MALLET FOR POUNDING MOCHI.

ALL WE CAN DO IS CHEER HER ON FROM THE SHADOWS.

IT'S A SACRED HOE, SO IT WOULD TERRIBLE IF SHE DROPPED IT...

SHE USES A BIG HOE FOR THE RITUAL, AND APPARENTLY IT'S VERY HEAVY.

RIKA-CHAN'S BEEN PRACTICING FOR THE CEREMONY, BUT I HEAR IT'S PRETTY ROUGH.

GUUU (ZZZZ)

TO INCREASE THE POWER OF MY POSITIVE VIBES, I'LL ENTER A MEDITATIVE STATE!

YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP AFTER ALL!?

I SEE.

GOOD LUCK, RIKA-CHAN...

KUSU

KUSU (SNICKER)

UGH, THAT MION. CAN'T SHE HOLD STILL FOR A SECOND?

TCH, YOU'RE BORING! I'M GONNA GO PLAY DODGEBALL WITH THOSE KIDS!

ME TOO!

MII-CHAN IS MYSTERI-OUS, ISN'T SHE?

IT'S LIKE SHE'S A GIRL, BUT ACTS LIKE A BOY.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. WHEN I'M HAVING FUN WITH MION, IT'S MORE LIKE I'M HAVING FUN WITH A GUY THAN WITH A GIRL.

HMMMM

...IS REALLY VERY GIRL-LIKE.

BUT YOU KNOW? EVEN MII-CHAN...

MII-CHAN WORKS HARD AS EVERYONE'S LEADER.

BUT REALLY, SHE'S A VERY CUTE GIRL.

SFX: PUUU (HRRRM)

SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME ANYTHING! I'M SAYING THIS SERIOUSLY! I AM!

RENA. HOW MUCH DID MION GIVE YOU?

WELL, MION ASIDE...

...I KNOW THAT SHION IS VERY FEMININE.

SHE'LL GET SHOCKED SPEECH-LESS, TURN BRIGHT RED...

...MAKE LUNCH FOR ME...

...DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGET THAT, KEIICHI-KUN...

I ESPECIALLY ...

A MION NAMED "SHION"...

...SHION TO MION?

WHAT IS..!

...WHO'S DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL MION...

SHE'S KIND OF A COMICAL ENIGMA.

SHE THINKS SHE'S FOOLING ME.

I WONDER IF I'LL SEE SHION AGAIN...?

CHAPTER 3
THE HINAMIZAWA DAM
PROJECT

Angel Mort

Angel Mort

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HERE.

SHE TOLD ME...

...TO GIVE THIS LUNCH BOX BACK TO "ONEE."

BUT I REALLY SHOULD GIVE IT BACK WHEN SHE'S "SHION," RIGHT?

BAN (WHAP)

BUT REALLY, I JUST WANNA SEE SHION, DON'T I!?

GASHA (CLATTER)

GASHA

DAN (STOMP)

THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, PUNK!!?

EEP!

BIKU (WINCE)

GUN

AH... CRUD...

GUI (YANK)
ZUUUUUN (GOOOOOM)
KUWA (RARRR)
EEEEP!
"IT JUST" MY ASS!!!
UH...
UH...I'M SORRY, IT JUST...

AAAAUGH!

SU (PASS)

SA SA (IGNORE)

BAN (BAM)

GARAAH!!

GASHA (CRASH)

SHARA-PON!

SOMEONE... H-HELP...

IF I WERE PASSING BY, I WOULDN'T, EITHER.

RIGHT. NOBODY'S GONNA HELP ME.

GUWA (GRAB)

RRRGG AAAAHH !!!

WH-WHAT'S WITH THESE GUYS...? THEY'RE INSANE!

YOU STUPID LITTLE PUNK!!!

DELA-WARE!!

BUN (WHAM)

BYU (SQUEEZE)

QUIET OUT THERE!! YOU DAMN IDIOTS!!!

GET LOST AND NEVER LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN!!

THE HELL!!?

MI... MION...

LEAVE KEI-CHAN AND GET LOST! NOW!

(GIN (GLARE))

SHION ...? I MEAN, MION!?

MION !!

YOU BITCH !!

!?

?

!!?

ZOKUUU (CHILLLLL)

THE HELL!!? GET OUT OF HERE, PUNKS!!!

NOW, NOW, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM HERE?

DETEC-TIVE... OOISHI...

ZURU

ZURU (DRAG)

THE HELL!? THAT KID STARTED IT!!!

AS FOR YOU, LET'S HAVE SOME TEA DOWN AT THE STATION. NOW DON'T BE SHY.

I...I'M SAVED...

GYAAAA! LET GOOO!

YES, YES.

PETAN

ACTING THE HERO AS USUAL...

WELL IF IT ISN'T THE LITTLE SONOZAKI GIRL.

ARE YOU HURT?

SU (CROUCH)

NO, NOT REALLY...

NI (SMIRK)

NN-FU-FU. A SMALL FORTUNE IN THE MIDST OF ADVER-SITY.

PACHIN (SNAP)

WELL, I'M OFF. HAVE A NICE YEAR.

WAAAH!

ALLL RIGHT! JUSTICE IS SERVED!

YOU OKAY, MAEBARA KID?

GASHI (GRAB)

AH... TH-THANKS ...

THERE HAPPENED TO BE A LOT OF US HERE THIS TIME, BUT NEXT TIME, YOU BE CARE-FUL.

THANK YOU!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KEI-CHAN!?

PA (BEAM)

TH-THANKS. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.

HEROOO (LIIIIMP)

NOT AT ALL. NEXT TIME, BE CAREFUL WHO YOU PICK A FIGHT WITH.

WILL YOU BE COMING INSIDE? YOU'RE TIRED. WHY NOT TAKE A REST?

Y... YEAH.

...I'VE NEVER SEEN MION LIKE THAT.

AND...

STILL, WHAT THE HECK WAS GOING ON, THE WAY THE VILLAGERS WERE ACTING...?

HERE'S SOME ICED COFFEE.

TH... THANKS...

GOTO (CLINK)

WERE YOU SURPRISED AT THE VILLAGERS BACK THERE?

EH?

THEY WERE ALL FROM HINAMIZAWA, WEREN'T THEY?

WH-WHO WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN? IT WOULD BE ONE THING IF IT WAS RENA AND THE OTHERS...

...BUT FOR ALL THOSE MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES TO COME RUNNING!

...BUT TO BE HONEST, I WAS SCARED TOO.

THEY DID HELP ME AND ALL...

HINAMIZAWA HAS FACED THE DANGER OF BEING WIPED OUT A LOT IN ITS PAST.

AND EACH TIME, WE FOUGHT TOGETHER AND WON. THAT'S OUR HISTORY.

FOR EXAMPLE ...

DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! IT'S SOMETHING TO BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR...!

SO IF SOMEONE DOES SOME-THING TO ANYONE, YOU ALL GET THEM BACK...KINDA LIKE THE MAFIA OR THE YAKUZA ...

UGH.

はは HA HA

THE ENEMY OF ONE IS THE ENEMY OF ALL. WE'RE A PRETTY RELIABLE GROUP OF CITIZENS.

THE PEOPLE OF HINAMIZAWA ARE ALL UNITED.

!?

...HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE HINAMIZAWA DAM PROJECT?

ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, THEY SUDDENLY STARTING TALKING ABOUT...

...BUILDING A DAM HERE, WHICH WOULD HAVE SUBMERGED HINAMIZAWA COMPLETELY.

OF COURSE, WE WERE FIERCELY OPPOSED TO IT.

EH!? THAT HAPPENED ...!?

IT WAS A HARD BATTLE. WE HAD SEVERAL RUN-INS WITH RIOT POLICE, AND PEOPLE GOT HURT.

R-RIOT POLICE!?

SIGNS: STOP THE DAM / GET OUT OF HINAMIZAWA!! / WE OPPOSE THE DAM PROJECT!
BANNER: STOP THE DAM PROJECT / ALLIANCE TO DEFEND ONIGAFUCHI TO THE DEATH

THE VILLAGE BANDED TOGETHER AS ONE AND FOUGHT AGAINST IT.

WE HAD PROTESTS, PETITIONS— WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD.

反対

WE COULDN'T BE SO OPTIMISTIC AS TO RELY ON HALF-BAKED METHODS LIKE SIT-INS.

THEN MY BATCHA WENT INTO A FIT OF ANGER, LIKE A RAGING FIRE.

WE MADE COMMERCIALS AND EXPOSED THE RIOT POLICE'S ACTS OF VIOLENCE.

WE DEMANDED THAT THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR WHO APPROVED THE PROJECT BE DISMISSED...

WE WENT TO COURT AND SUED FOR THEM TO STOP THE DAM PROJECT.

...A FEW YEARS AGO, THE DAM PROJECT WAS PUT ON HOLD INDEFINITELY.

AND AS A RESULT...

THE VILLAGERS ALL FOUGHT TOGETHER AND CAME OUT VICTORIOUS.

...STILL RESTS INSIDE EVERY ONE OF US.

THE FEELING OF SOLIDARITY AND THE POWER OF OUR UNITY BACK THEN...

...RIGHT.

BACK THERE, I WAS AFRAID OF THE VILLAGERS.

WE EVEN FEEL IT FOR YOU, KEI-CHAN, EVEN THOUGH YOU ONLY JUST MOVED HERE.

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE JUST STRANGERS TO ME. I DON'T EVEN KNOW THEIR NAMES.

BUT...

ALL THOSE PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER TO HELP ME.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONLY NATURAL.

...I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYBODY WHO LIVED IN MY NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

WHEN I LIVED IN THE CITY...

THE VILLAGERS ALL THOUGHT OF ME AS ONE OF THEM.

BUT...

THEN IF I'M EVER IN A PINCH, YOU'LL HELP ME OUT, RIGHT?

YEAH! OF COURSE!

I HOPE I'M IN A PINCH SOON. ☆

AH-HA!

おほっ

GUH (CLENCH)

IF YOU WANT TO REPAY THEM, THEN NEXT TIME, YOU FIGHT FOR SOMEONE, KEI-CHAN!

OKAY !?

KAAA (BLUUUSH)

UM... I'M SHION...

EH?

DOKI (BADUM)

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. IF YOU WERE IN A PINCH, MION, I THINK YOU COULD HANDLE IT ON YOUR OWN.

NNNGH

GOHO (COUGH)

GOHO

OOHH, KEI-CHAN. YOU DON'T THINK OF ONEE AS A WOMAN, DO YOU?

OH, RIGHT. SORRY...

KYAAA!

I'M FAL--ING!

YES! LET'S SAY WE'RE BOTH HANGING FROM A CLIFF.

IF ONEE AND I WERE BOTH IN A PINCH...

PI (POINT)

HMM, OKAY, THEN. FOR EXAMPLE...

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE. IF SHE WERE A MAN, I'D HAVE BEATEN HER TO A PULP.

WHICH ONE OF US WOULD YOU SAVE?

...MION COULD PROBABLY GET HERSELF OUT OF A LITTLE PINCH LIKE THAT, NO PROBLEM.

BUT SHION IS A NORMAL, DELICATE GIRL, RIGHT?

HMMM.

EH? I-I CAN'T SAVE BOTH OF YOU?

NOPE. NOW WHO DO YOU CHOOSE?

MION IS THE BEST FRIEND I'VE EVER HAD. THANKS TO HER, MY LIFE AT SCHOOL IS DOZENS OF TIMES MORE FUN THAN BEFORE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SHION IS MION'S SISTER; I'VE ONLY JUST MET HER...!!

URK...

IF MION AND SHION REALLY WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, THEN I WOULD HAVE TO SAY...

IT WOULDN'T BE ONEE, WOULD IT?

THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT. ONEE...IS BASICALLY...

HUH...? EH-HEH-HEH. I CAN'T FINISH MY OWN THOUGHT.

あは AH HA!

BUT... WHAT...?

IS MION TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING THROUGH SHION...?

U-UM! SHION!

SEE YOU!

EH!?

PLEASE USE THIS COUPON. YOU WON'T HAVE TO PAY ANYTHING!

BA (JUMP)

OH! I HAVE TO GET TO WORK!

IT WAS DELI-CIOUS.

THANKS FOR THIS.

KARAN (CLATTER)

LATER!

AH! KEI-CHAN...!

DAH (DASH)

KAPA (POP)

EH!? AAHH!!

HUH? KEI-CHAN, IS THERE SOMETHING INSIDE?

Ah...

Pretty ...

ぼぃわ～ BOWA (FLUSH)

U-UM, THAT IS, UHHH!

MOM TOLD ME TO PUT THOSE IN THERE AS A THANK YOU!

I MEAN... I DIDN'T CHOOSE THEM OR ANYTHING.

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

L- LATER!

GACHA (CLICK)

HELLO, MAEBARA RESIDENCE...

Hello, this is Sonozaki. Um, Kei-chan?

MION!? DON'T TELL ME THE CLUBS HAVE A NIGHT MATCH...

Eh!? No, that is...

EH? IT CAN'T BE. SHION!?

That's right. Good evening.

I do want you to do something for me in return. Will you go out with me for a bit afterwards?

EH...? UH... OKAY.

...EH...? IS...IS THIS A DATE?

IF I BECOME A TASTE TESTER, I CAN EAT ALL THE NEW DESSERTS I WANT? OF COURSE I'LL GO!

Then I'll put your name with the winners chosen to be testers.

ACTUALLY, THEY'RE HAVING A DESSERT FESTIVAL AT ANGEL MORT TOMORROW.

AND THERE'S A RAFFLE TO CHOOSE PEOPLE AS TASTE TESTERS.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE BASED ON THE RAFFLE, BUT WILL YOU BE A TASTE TESTER, KEI-CHAN?

Y-YEAH!

Ah-ha-ha. Then I'll be waiting for you tomorrow!

MION AND SHION.

THEY'RE THE SAME PERSON, BUT THEY DO THINGS SO DIFFERENTLY...

IT'S NOT BAD TO ENJOY THIS MYSTERIOUS FEELING.

OR SO I STARTED TO THINK.

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, KEIICHI-KUN? I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WOULD KNOW SOMETHING...

DOKI BADUMO

EH? ABOUT WHAT ?

NN? YOU THINK SO?

LIKE SHE'S EXCITED OR HAPPY OR SOMETHING.

MII-CHAN'S BEEN ACTING KIND OF STRANGE LATELY.

HUH?

WHY DOES MION APPEAR IN FRONT OF ME CALLING HERSELF "SHION"?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.

HMMM.

IF MII-CHAN'S IN A GOOD MOOD, THEN RENA'S HAPPY TOO.

YEAH.

RECENTLY.

PTA (STOP)

BUT YOU KNOW.

SOMEONE HURT HUI-CHAN.

AT FIRST, SHE PRETENDED IT DIDN'T BOTHER HER THAT MUCH.

BUT IT GRADUALLY SWELLED, LIKE A REAL INJURY.

IT STARTED TO STING AND SWELL.

HURT... ER? WHAT ...?

FINALLY, SHE COULDN'T ENDURE THE PAIN ANYMORE. SHE WOKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

AND SHE CALLED RENA.

MII-CHAN WAS CRYING.

I-I'M SORRY! RENA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

EH!?

H-HEY! DON'T PLAY DUMB!

I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNO-OOW!

KURU

KURU (TWIRL)

WAS RENA TALKING ABOUT SOME-THING? WAS I?

PA (BEAM)

WHAT AM I TALK-ING ABOUT ?

AH-HA-HA

RENA DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING!

RE—

ZAAAAAAAAA (WHOOOOOOSH)

おはは

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA

ハア

アア

SAAAAA BREEEEEZE.

WHO COULD HAVE ...?

MION ?

SOME-ONE HURT HER?

...WHO HURT MII-CHAN?

KEIICHI-KUN, DO YOU KNOW...

PENALTY GAME

THIS OLD MAN'S GOTTEN FAT!?
EH? I-IT WON'T FIT!?
THIS IS ONLY LAST YEAR'S SWIMMING SUIT!!
SHOULD BE MAKING KEI-CHAN WEAR IT!
GRRRR, TO THINK THIS OLD MAN WOULD HAVE TO WEAR A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT!!
R-RENA? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY BUST SIZE?
RENA!
GARA (RATTLE) ガラ
HERE, MII-CHAN!! I THINK THIS SWIMSUIT WILL FIT YOU, WITH YOUR X-CUP... I THINK.
BURU (SHAKE) ブルブル
BURU ブルブル
KURU くるくる
KURU (SPIN) くるくる
I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW!
HOW DO I? HOW DO I?

WHAT DID RENA MEAN?

IT'S LIKE SHE WAS ACCUSING ME...

SOMEONE HURT MII-CHAN.

CHAPTER 4

IT'S MY IMAGI-NATION! MY IMAGI-NATION!!

IT'S NO USE THINKING ABOUT IT!!

カ!!!

GAAAAHH!

.....

AND THOSE EYES...

ZOKU (CHILL)

THAT'S RIGHT! I MEAN, MION'S BEEN ACTING LIKE SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF! I MUST BE THINKING TOO HARD!

SHE EVEN ASKED ME OUT ON A DATE TODAY!

DOOOON (BOOOOOM)

NOW! OFF TO ANGEL MORT!!

Angel Mort

CHAPTER 4
ANGEL BATTLE

IT'S INCREDIBLE NYO! ☆

IT'S TEN THOUSAND TIMES THE XXXX IN XXX AT AKIBA!

ANGEL HAS THE BEST UNIFORMS.

HAA

HAA

RERO RERO (UROOL)

OHHH MAIDS!

SIGN: DESSERT FESTIVAL

デザートフェスタ

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

I WANNA GO IN!

THIS EXCITEMENT !!?

KOWA (SCARY)

WH-WHAT THE !!?

WE GET A LOT OF REAL CHARACTERS ON EVENT DAYS.

HAA

HAA

HAA

TH-THIS IS KIND OF INCREDIBLE.

GASHAN (CRASH)

ALMOST ALL OF OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO COME FROM FAR AWAY TODAY. CUSTOMERS LIKE THAT TEND TO LOSE CONTROL...

UH, YES.

KEIICH! MAEBARA-SAMA, YES? I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR SEAT.

SEE. THEY STICK THEIR LEGS OUT AND TRIP US UP ON PURPOSE LIKE THAT.

I-I'M SORRY...

EH!? HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

DEROOON (SPLAAAAT)

EH!?

THE ONLY THING FOR IT IS FOR THE LITTLE WAITRESS TO WIPE-WIPE IT OFF WITH ALL HER HEART!

DOODOON (DOOOOOH)

THOSE JERKS!! IS THAT WHAT THEY WERE AFTER!!!?

WIPE, WIPE!!

WIPE, WIPE!!

ERK, MION!?

I BOUGHT THESE PANTS AT A SPECIALTY JEANS STORE FOR ¥1800, AND THEY'RE RUINED!

I-I'M SORRY...

WIPE, WIPE!

WIPE, WIPE!

N... NO...

THEN NEXT TIME, YOU FIGHT FOR SOMEONE, KEI-CHAN!

IF I'M EVER IN A PINCH, YOU'LL HELP ME OUT, RIGHT?

LIKE YOU DID THEN!

HA (GASP)

MION...! TAKE CARE OF THOSE GUYS!

HAA

HAA

H-HEY... SOMEBODY HELP HER OUT...

WE'RE ALL ABOUT CUSTOMER SERVICE THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO.

I'LL HELP HER!!!

HEY!!

IT'S NOT "SOMEBODY HELP HER"!

YOU HELP HER!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KEIICHI MAEBARA!!?

I'LL SAVE MION!!

YOU GREASY FATTY! GET LOST AND NEVER LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN!

GOOO WHOOSH

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO ARE GONNA BE PUNISHED!

WHAT!?

なにを=!

THIS IS HER PUNISH-MENT!

THAT LITTLE GIRL MADE A MESS ON MY PANTS!!

SHAKIIIIN (KACHIIIING)

HO-HO-HO

OTAKU ARE OFTEN SURPRIS-INGLY WELL-VERSED IN MINOR MARTIAL ARTS, SO YOU'D BET-TER NOT TAKE US LIGHTLY. ☆

H-HE'S STRONG ...

ZUSHAAAAA (SKIIIID)

KEI-CHAAAN !?

HIIIIYAAAAA!!

BFF!

HIYA!!

TAAA (WHACK)

SHUBA (WHACK) BABABABA

HA!!

BITAAAN (WHAAAM)

KEI-CHAN !?

DAH (DASH)

DAMMIT!

BORO (WORN OUT)

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU WEREN'T HURT TOO BADLY.

OWWW...

HEH-HEH-HEH. YOU'RE ALL BARK AND NO BITE...

KEI-CHA-AAN !!

KAKU (CLUNK)

I-I'M SORRY. THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOU, SHION.

OH, NO, I'M VERY HAPPY THAT YOU CAME TO MY RESCUE.

REALLY.

プル プル PURU PURU (SHAKE)

THERE'S FRESH CREAM ON THAT TOWEL!!?

WELL, TAKE IT EASY, OKAY?

タッ TA (DASH)

NEXT, YOU'LL WIPE-WIPE ME!

WIPE-WIPE IS THE BEST!

MION...

I'M SORRY. I'D LIKE TO CALL SOME FRIENDS. IS THAT OKAY?

EH? YES, WE HAVE ROOM FOR THREE MORE.

GUH (CLENCH)

YOU JERKS HAVE THREE COUNTS AGAINST YOU.

THE FACT THAT I OWE MION...

...THE FACT THAT I AM A MAN WHO WILL THROW AWAY HIS PRIDE IN ORDER TO WIN...

AND YOUR FRIENDS' NAMES?

...AND...

...THE FACT THAT WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE STRONGEST CLUB IN HISTORY!!

RENA RYUGU!

RIKA FURUDE!!

SATOKO HOJO!

NOW EAT UP!

YOUR "BLANCMANGE WITH BLUEBERRY SAUCE," "FRAMBOISE MOUSSE"...

AND "HOMESTYLE CINNAMON AVENTURE."

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON? TREATING US TO DESSERT LIKE THIS. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU TOLD US WHAT YOU WANT.

ERK! YOU GOT ME?

IT'S ADOWABLE! IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO EAT IT!

はうーん OHHH!

It looks delicious, sir!

...I...

I WANT YOUR HELP!!

...I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!!

ACTUALLY ...

PLEASE DON'T GO THERE!

SISTER? IT'S NOT JUST HER WITH HER HAIR DOWN?

MII-CHAN'S POOR SISTER!

THAT'S TERRI-BLE!

I DON'T CARE HOW ADOWABLE... ADOWABLE... ADOWABLE...

BURU (SHAKE)

BURU

ANYWAY, I CAN'T FORGIVE ANYONE WHO WOULD DO THAT TO A GIRL! I CAN'T!

THE UNIFORMS HERE ARE SO ADOWABLE.

☆

CHARGED AND READY TO GO!!

ヒィ (BI) (THUMBS UP)

おもちかえり

I COULD TAKE THEM HOME WITH ME!

MAX

OHHHHHH!

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

LEAVE THE REST TO US, SIR.

I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELPING IT. WE'LL SHOW KEIICHI-SAN HOW IT'S DONE.

TH-THANKS, GUYS...

ZOKU (CHILL) ZOKU

RIKA-CHAN'S SERIOUS! SHE'S SERIOUSLY READY TO KILL THEM!

YEAH!!

THERE ARE NO RULES IN BATTLE!

STARTING THIS VERY SECOND! ANYONE WHO TRIES ANYTHING ON SHION WILL BE RECOG-NIZED AS OUR ENEMY!

YOUR REWARD IS DESSERT !!

SFX: HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH

HERE SHE COMES, GENTLE-MEN...

SU (STICK)

AH!

BEGIN OPER-ATION !!

KYA!

GIRAAAN (GLINT)

GURA (STAGGER)

ナイパン

SuPERAAAAN (KAPOOOOW)

SAW (CAT...)

RENA'S TAKING HER HOME, SO TSK!!

EEEEEP!!

PRANKS ARE BAD!

LITTLE GIRL!! USING ODD MOVES!

GHCK!

STAFF

ON TO PHASE TWO!!

SATOKO, IN THE STAFF ROOM!!!

おおお WHOA!

WE HAVE A PERFECT DEFENSE OF SHII, SIR.

AWESOME!! THAT WAS SUPER-HUMAN! THAT'S OUR GODDESS OF SPEED RENA!

OH, KEIICHI-SAN? I'VE ALREADY FINISHED MY JOB.

HYOKO (HOP)

ひょいっ

EH?

BLAGH !

HACK !!!

オホホホ。 OOOOH-HO-HO-HO

WH-WHAT DID YOU PUT IN THERE, SATOKO? DON'T TELL ME...

I DON'T BELIEVE IN HOLDING BACK FOR ANYONE!

B-BATH-ROOM...

UGAGA GAGAGA GAGH ... M-MY STOMACH ...

ZUIK YUUUUIN LGUIRRRRGLE)

LEAVE IT TO ME, SIR.

YOU'RE NEXT, RIKA-CHAN! I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!!

WHAT !!?

GENTLEMEN

WHA—

OUT OF ORDER

THAT'S RIGHT!

WE GOTTA GOOOO !!!

DO (STAMP)

DO

WHOOOAAAA!

SFX GAKU (GRRK) GAKU

LADIES

BAN (BAM)

TEE HEE HEE HEE!

KI (GLARE)

AH-HA-HA!

THE LADIES' ROOM!

TH-THEN...

I-I-I CAN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER ...

SHIN
(SILENCE)

うる
HRU
(TEAR)

Mew...

みぃ
MEW

オロオロ
ORO ORO
(FLUSTER)

D-DON'T CRY!!

WE'D LIKE TO BORROW YOUR BATHROOM.

UH, TH-THIS IS, UM, YOU KNOW, MADEMOI-SELLE...!

AAAAAGH!

うぉ!

TEE HEE

IT'S VERY URGENT! PLEASE !!

HO. (WHEW)

ITI...

REALLY NYA!?

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE OUTSIDE BATHROOM, SIR.

ZORO (FILE) ZORO

HERE IT IS!!

LET'S GO, SIR!

FINISH THEM, KEIICHI-SAN!

YEAH!

SHOW NO MERCY!

DAN (WHAM)

HEY! YOU GUYS!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH YOU!!

WHAT!?

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS ONCE YOU LEAVE THE RESTAURANT, RIGHT?

HEH

ONCE YOU LEAVE THE RESTAURANT, YOU CAN'T COME BACK INSIDE!!!

AS TODAY IS AN EVENT DAY...

...ONCE YOU LEAVE THE RESTAURANT, YOU MAY NOT REENTER.

BAN (BAM)

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!!

D-DAMN...

GURUUU GURRGLE

YELLING ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR TUMMY, SIR.

ACK!

WHAT'S THAT!!?

PISHI (CRACK)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

I SHALL RE-TUUURN!!

DO (STAMP)

AH... Y-YOU DID THIS FOR ME...?

ISN'T THAT GREAT, SONO-ZAKI-SAN!?

THANKS! I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU GUYS!!

WE DID IT!

PAN (CLAP)

PYuuu (ZOOOOM)

AH-HA-HA-HA あはは

TH-THANK YOOOUU!

HOOT HOOT

BASA (RUSTLE)

EEEEEP!

MEAN-WHILE

I CAN'T HOLD IT JUST A LITTLE FARTHER, SIR

WHERE IS THIS BATH-ROOM?

STILL, SHII-CHAN REALLY DOES LOOK JUST LIKE MII-CHAN...

HUH? WHERE'S SATOKO?

SHE WENT TO GET RIKA-CHAN.

SHE SAID THEY WOULD GO STRAIGHT HOME.

OH?

NII (SMIRK)

ON THE OUTSIDE, YEAH. BUT ON THE INSIDE, IT'S LIKE REVERSED. SHE'S SO GIRLY.

BUT THEY'RE REALLY THE SAME PERSON...

THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME ON THE INSIDE TOO, YOU KNOW.

ZOKU (CHILL)

RENA REALLY IS...

...ACCUSING ME...

...UM, HEY, RENA ...

WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT MION BEING HURT.

YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY THAT I HURT HER, WEREN'T YOU?

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT!

IF I MESSED UP, WOULD YOU PLEASE JUST TELL ME?

TELL ME, RENA. MION IS ONE OF THE BEST FRIENDS I COULD HAVE.

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYTHING THAT COULD CAUSE FRICTION BETWEEN US...

DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, MAYBE MII-CHAN WAS BEING UNFAIR...

I DON'T THINK *YOU* MESSED UP, KEIICHI-KUN.

.....

I DON'T THINK MII-CHAN IS TOO BOTHERED BY IT ANYMORE EITHER.

I'M SORRY FOR GETTING MAD AT YOU.

NO. THIS IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ON YOUR OWN...

.....

HOW DID I HURT HER!?

I DREAM OF WHEN YOU FIGURE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN AND GO TO APOLOGIZE.

KARAN (JANGLE)

BUT YOU KNOW, AS A FELLOW GIRL...

DOKI (BADUM)

H-HEY.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

ITI

PON (PAT)

RENA... THIS RIDDLE MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO HARD FOR ME.

WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE DONE WITH THE INTRO-DUCTIONS, SHALL WE BE OFF?

DANGIT, MION. SHE'S GONNA KEEP THIS SHION THING GOING TO THE END.

!BAH (POUNCE)

I DIDN'T GET TO INTRODUCE MYSELF PROPERLY BECAUSE THE FIRST TIME WE MET, YOU CONFUSED ME FOR ONEE.

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF AGAIN. I AM SHION SONOZAKI.

EH?

IS THIS THE TOY STORE WE HAD THE GAME TOURNA-MENT AT THE OTHER DAY?

KEI-CHAN, THIS WAY, THIS WAY!

LOOKING AT HER LIKE THIS, SHE REALLY IS A GIRL.

WOW, MION DID?

I GUESS THEY DO. EVEN MY BOY OF AN OLDER SISTER SAID THEY WERE CUTE.

EH...? NN?

THAT DOLL IN THE DRESS IS ESPECIALLY NICE.

...SO I HEAR.

LOOK, LOOK! AREN'T THEY CUTE?

I DON'T GET IT... GIRLS REALLY DO LOVE THIS STUFF, DON'T THEY?

THAT DOLL.

I GOT ONE FROM THE MANAGER AT THE GAME TOURNA-MENT.

I'M A GUY. THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD CARE ABOUT HOW ADORABLE IT IS.

HOW DID YOU LIKE IT? WASN'T SHE ADORABLE?

SO WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE DOLL?

WELL, THERE WAS NO POINT IN MY KEEPING IT.

SO I GAVE IT AWAY.

TO WHO?

SOME-ONE HURT MII-CHAN.

AH...

MII-CHAN IS REALLY VERY GIRL-LIKE.

YOU'RE NO GOOD WITH GIRLY STUFF, ARE YOU, MION?

HEH-HEH. I WONDER WHY I WASN'T BORN A MAN.

THEY'RE EXACTLY THE SAME ON THE INSIDE TOO, YOU KNOW.

...I WANT TO DO THINGS OVER AS SOMEONE ELSE!

I...

...BUT IF I COULD DO IT AGAIN... I'D WANT TO BE MORE OPEN...

I LIKE THE RELATIONSHIP I HAVE WITH KEI-CHAN NOW. BUT...

THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT IN RENA GIVING YOU THE ONE SHE GOT, WOULD THERE?

...No...

I CAN'T DO THAT! NOT NOW...

Then try asking Keiichi-kun for it, Mii-chan.

->HIC<-

->HIC<-

Did you want it? The doll...?

...I WANT HIM TO SEE ME AS A GIRL.

THIS TIME...

IF I SAID...

...I WANTED THE DOLL...

...WOULD YOU BUY IT FOR ME, KEI-CHAN?

DOKUN (BADUM)

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

わしゃ わしゃ

WASHA (RUFFLE)

WASHA

UH...

WAH!

GUH (GRIT)

O-
OKAY...

I'LL BUY IT FOR YOU...

KEI-CHAN!

GUI (TUG)

I'M... SHION ...

THAT'S ENOUGH.

I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU BACK THEN, MION.

THEN WE ALL COULD HAVE HAD FUN AND LAUGHED.

EH ...?

かぁぁっ KAAA (BLUSH)

AH...

COMING RIGHT UP!

PATA PATA (PATTER)

DOK (BA DUM) DOK

I'D LIKE THE DOLL IN THE WIN-DOW!

E-EXCUSE ME!!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAIT—

すすす

SUSUSU (NUZZLE)

K—

K—

KEI-CHA...

EEEHH!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH SHION!?

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, ONEE!

WH-WHO ARE YOU...?

"WHO AM I"? I'M SHION!

BI

PUUU CHIRRIN

EEEEEE HHHH!!?

EEHH? I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON THIS KEI-CHAN YOU LIKED SO MUCH WAS, SO I INVITED HIM TO THE DESSERT FESTIVAL.

AND THEN KEI-CHAN HELPED ME WHEN THE CUSTOMERS WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND...

PO (BLUSH)

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON, SHION!?

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!

MION!? DIDN'T YOU CALL ME YESTER-DAY!?

EXCUSE ME, CASHIER. HURRY AND WRAP THAT. IT'S A PRESENT FROM A BOY I ABSOLUTELY LOOOVE, SO PLEASE MAKE SURE TO PUT A RIBBON AROUND IT. ♡

BUT

DON (BAM)

KAAAA (BLUUUUSH)

かぁぁぁ

WHO SAVED ME FROM THOSE THUGS?

TH-THEN WHO GAVE ME THAT LUNCH?

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

AH-HA-HA!

あっはっは

NNNGH. KEI-CHAAAN

BOOZEN (DAAAZE)

SO THE SHION UNTIL YESTERDAY REALLY WAS MION?

AH-HA-HA-HA-HA

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR USING MY NAME WITHOUT ASKING, ONEE!

AND THE ONE I THOUGHT WAS MION TODAY IS THE REAL SHION!?

THE NEXT DAY

KEIICHI-KUN. MII-CHAN, YOU KNOW? SHE SAYS SHE WANTS YOU TO FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED UP TO YESTERDAY.

THEN WE CAN ALL GO BACK TO NORMAL TOMORROW.

MII AND KEIICHI BOTH LEARNED A LOT, DIDN'T THEY, SIR?

WAAAAAAH!

なでなでなでなで

NADE NADE (PET)

WHY DO I FEEL SO ASHAMED AND LIKE I'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG!!?

SISTERS AT PLAY

I BOUGHT THE UNDERWEAR YOU ASKED FOR.

ONEE!

OHHH, ONEE. I WISH YOU WOULD BE MORE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A WOMAN.

TH-THANKS, SHION. I WAS JUST SO EMBARRASSED TO GO INTO AN UNDERWEAR STORE...

BIRAAGAN (TADAAAH)

IF WE WEAR THEM AS "ALL LACE SISTERS," THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!

AAAAH-HA!!-HA-HA!

YOU CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH IT!!!

I CAN'T WEAR THIS!

CHAPTER 5
THE COTTON DRIFTING

THIS OLD MAN WINS!

I GOT MATSUKIRI BOUZU!

PAN CBANG

THE LOSERS ARE THE RENA AND KEI-CHAN TEAM, WHO ONLY HAVE FIVE-POINT CARDS!!

OHH!

ACK!

I HAVE INO-SHIKA-CHOU, SIR.

YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU? TODAY'S PENALTY GAME IS...

...WHICH MEANS.

I'VE GOT HANAMI DE IPPAI.

AGAIN !!?

DA (STAMP)

DA

DA

DA

DA

SCRUB-BING THE HALL FLOORS !!

OHHH. THESE CLOTHES ARE ADOW-ABLE.

BUT I WANTED RIKA-CHAN OR SATOKO-CHAN TO WEAR THEM.

SU!!!! (SLIIIIDE)

NO, BUT SINCE WE'RE AT SCHOOL AFTER HOURS, THE CHANCES THAT ANYONE WILL SEE US ARE LOW...

ZUSHA (SKID)

WHAT BEAUTI-FUL SCENERY, SIR.

MY, THIS OLD MAN HAS QUITE THE VIEW.

WHY, YOU! WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT LOOKING AT A GUY'S UNDER-WEAR...?

THAT MEANS I'VE GONE BACK TO OUR NORMAL DAILY LIVES, BUT...

THAT MION. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOING TO PRETEND THE FEW DAYS WHEN SHE WAS "SHION" NEVER HAPPENED.

I CAN'T SEE "SHION"...

...BUT NOW I CAN'T SEE THE OTHER MION.

キャー GYAAA!

YOUR BOTTOM IS SO ADORABLE, KEIICHI-KUN!

DO (STOMP)

GYA-HA-HA-HA!

きゃはは

THEY WENT HOME TO GET READY FOR THE FESTIVAL.

THANK YOU.

HUH? WHERE ARE MION AND THE GIRLS?

HRMM.

YES, THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL.

OH YEAH, THAT'S TOMORROW, HUH? THE, UH, COTTON...

げっそり GESSORI (WORN OUT)

THAT WAS REEEALLY FUN, WASN'T IT, KEI-ICHI-KUN?

PIKA (SPARKLE)

PIKA

NN?

SATOSHI HOJO

WELL, WE ARE OUT IN THE COUNTRY. IT'S MORE UNUSUAL FOR SOMEONE TO MOVE IN, LIKE I DID.

HMMM.

HE TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS.

OH... SATOSHI-KUN.

WAS THERE A "SATOSHI" IN OUR CLASS?

WHOOPS
...

RENA TOLD ME YOU WERE GETTING READY FOR THE FESTIVAL.

LOOKS LIKE FUN. I'LL HELP.

DON (PAT)

OOF!

K-KEI-CHAN!?

HEY!

I-IT'S OVER ...

KANA KANA KANA (CHIRP)

HELPING WITHOUT BEING ASKED. WELL DONE, WELL DONE!

I CAN'T DRINK ...

BEER TASTES GREAT AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK!

IT'S LIKE I'M COMPLETELY A MEMBER OF THE VILLAGE.

Y-YEAH. TH-THANKS!

HEY THERE! IF IT ISN'T THE MAEBARAS' BOY!

GOOD EVENING, KEI-CHAN!

SHION!?

KEI-CHAN, WANT SOME BARLEY TEA?

OH, THANKS.

MI...

GASP!

...IS WAY MORE "SHION" THAN MION ACTED HER OUT TO BE.

NIKO

NIKO (GRIN)

IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE REAL SHION...

...BUT WHAT'S UP WITH ME, THINKING SHE WAS MION AND GETTING ALL WORKED UP LIKE THAT?

IF YOU REALLY GET DOWN TO IT, IT MIGHT BE MION'S FAULT FOR PRETENDING TO BE SHION LIKE THAT...

I DIDN'T TRICK YOU. YOU MISTOOK ME FOR ONEE ALL ON YOUR OWN.

YOU REALLY EMBARRASSED ME, TRICKING ME LIKE THAT!

BLIN (FLAIL)

ERGH!

KUSU (SNICKER)

BLIN

PITO (CLING)

AND HERE I LOVE YOU SOOOOO MUCH, KEI-CHAN. ♡

MUNIIIII (PRESS)

I WON'T LET HER FOOL ME! I WILL NOT LET HER FOOL ME!

PLAYING WITH PEOPLE'S PURE HEARTS!

AH-HA-HA! YOU MAKE ME SOUND SO BAD.

KIIII (GRRRRR)

DODON (P-POUND)

ドドド

WAH!

ZAH (STEP)

HEY THERE!

TAKANO-SAN.

HEH-HEH. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE STARTING RE-HEARSING THE DANCE OFFER-ING.

?

AH!

GOOD EVENING, SHION-CHAN.

TOMITAKE-SAN!

NOT MANY PEOPLE MOVE IN HERE...AND YOU DO LIVE IN THAT BIG MANOR.

HEH-HEH-HEH. SO YOU'RE THE KEIICHI MAEBARA-KUN EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT.

Y-YEAH.

EH? YOU KNOW ME...?

ARE THEY FROM THIS VILLAGE? I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE...

HELLO.

PEKO (BOW)

NOW LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.

AND THIS IS JIROU TOMITAKE-SAN.

HE'S A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO COMES FROM TOKYO TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR.

THIS IS MIYO TAKANO-SAN.

SHE'S A NURSE AT THE VILLAGE'S CLINIC.

OH...? IT'S DETECTIVE OOISHI FROM OKINOMIYA.

JIROU-SAN MAINLY COMES TO TAKE PICTURES OF THE WILD BIRDS.

REALLY? WHAT KIND OF PICTURES?

I LOVE COMING TO HINAMIZAWA. I GET A LOT OF GOOD PICTURES EVERY TIME.

H-HE KIND OF GIVES ME THE CREEPS.

DOES HE THINK I'M STUPID?

NII (SMIRK)

HUH? THE DETECTIVE I MET THE OTHER DAY...!?

?

HA-HA-HA. YOU LIKE THOSE STORIES TOO, HUH?

KUSU|KUSU (CHUCKLE)

I HOPE THAT THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL DOESN'T NEED THE POLICE'S HELP THIS YEAR...

I HOPE SO TOO...

I WONDER WHO WILL DIE...

SHION ...

...AND WHO WILL DISAPPEAR THIS YEAR...

WHAT DID YOU JUST...?

"ANY-THING"...? ABOUT WHAT?

HASN'T ONEE SAID ANYTHING?

!?

MAEBARA-KUN, DO YOU...

HEE HEE HEE...

.....

...BELIEVE IN CURSES?

CURSES...?

UH, WELL.

I THINK THEY'RE INTERESTING, BUT I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THEM...

HEH-HEH-HEH. OF COURSE...

...YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND.

BUT ...

...ONCE YOU HEAR THIS STORY...

YEAH, SOME-THING ABOUT PROTEST-ING AGAINST IT.

AND THE PROJECT WAS CANCELED, RIGHT?

KEIICHI-KUN.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE HINAMIZAWA DAM PROJECT?

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE VILLAGERS SET UP THE OPPOSITION ALLIANCE'S OFFICE IN THE SHRINE HONORING OYASHIRO-SAMA, THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF HINAMIZAWA, AND PRAYED FOR VICTORY.

AND WHEN THEY DID...

...THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAM CONSTRUC-TION PROJECT WAS KILLED.

A FIGHT WITH HIS SUBOR-DINATES GOT HEATED...

...AND HE WAS HIT REPEAT-EDLY WITH PICKAXES.

BOTH ARMS...

...BOTH LEGS...

...AND HIS HEAD WERE TORN OFF AND SCAT-TERED.

THE NEXT YEAR, A COUPLE WHO HAD ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DAM FELL OFF A CLIFF INTO A RIVER WHILE ON VACATION.

THE HUSBAND DIED, AND THE WIFE'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.

THE YEAR AFTER THAT, THE PRIEST AT THE FURUDE SHRINE, WHO HAD BEEN ON THE FENCE ABOUT THE DAM, DIED SUDDENLY OF AN UNKNOWN ILLNESS.

AS IF TO FOLLOW HIM, HIS WIFE LEFT HER WILL AND DROWNED HERSELF. HER BODY HASN'T BEEN FOUND EITHER, AND THEY TREATED IT AS A DISAPPEARANCE...

...THE WIFE OF THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF THE MAN WHO FELL OFF THE CLIFF WAS FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, LAST YEAR...

I-I'LL GIVE YOU THAT THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE CASE, BUT IT WAS MURDER, RIGHT? AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY KNOW WHO DID IT...

GOKU (GULP)

THAT'S NOT A CURSE, IS IT...?

APPARENTLY ONE OF THE MURDERERS ESCAPED, AND HE AND THE RIGHT ARM THAT HE TOOK WITH HIM STILL HAVEN'T BEEN FOUND.

THE STORY GOES ON.

AND ALL OF THOSE INCIDENTS HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING!

AND THEY CALL IT "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

DAN (BAM)

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE DAM PROJECT ARE DYING, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.

AND THE VILLAGERS ARE START-ING TO GET SCARED.

DAN

DAN

THEY'RE AFRAID THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA IS ANGRY THAT THEY TRIED TO SINK HINAMIZAWA TO THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE.

THEY THINK THAT DISBELIEVERS WHO DON'T ATTEND THE FESTIVAL MIGHT BE PUNISHED.

THAT'S WHY PEOPLE GATHER FROM ALL OVER THE VILLAGE TO THE COTTON DRIFTING.

THE VILLAGERS ARE AFRAID OF THE CURSE.

BUT IS IT A COINCI-DENCE THAT FOUR CASES HAPPENED ON THE SAME DAY FOUR YEARS IN A ROW?

YOU'RE RIGHT, KEI-CHAN. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS CURSES.

IF YOU LOOK AT EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE, THERE'S NOTHING REALLY SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THEM, RIGHT?

...BUT I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE THIS WHOLE CURSE BUSINESS.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THESE INCIDENTS...

ZAZA (RUSTLE)

IT'S NOT A CURSE, AND IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.

IT'S TRUE THAT EACH OF THE PAST INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN SOLVED.

...WERE THE WORK OF HUMANS.

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

AND THESE HUMANS WOULD BE PEOPLE FROM HINAMIZAWA WHO WERE AGAINST THE DAM PROJECT.

EH...?

GURA (STAGGER)

PEOPLE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA...?

THE VILLAGE, BANDED TOGETHER AS ONE AND FOUGHT AGAINST IT.

THE PEOPLE OF HINAMI-ZAWA ARE ALL UNITED.

NO...

EVIDENCE !?

BAH (JUMP)

THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED BY SOMEONE FROM HINAMIZAWA.

AND THE PEOPLE OF HINAMIZAWA KNOW.

BECAUSE ONLY PEOPLE WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THE DAM CONSTRUC-TION HAVE A MOTIVE.

THEY SAY THAT OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE IS THE DARK SIDE OF THE ANTI-DAM MOVEMENTS.

BECAUSE ONE PERSON DIES...

...AND ONE PERSON DISAP-PEARS.

DISAPPEARS?

H-HOW DOES THAT MEAN THAT SOMEONE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA DID IT?

IN THE OLD LEGENDS KNOWN ONLY TO PEOPLE IN HINAMIZAWA...

...THERE IS A STORY THAT SAYS WHEN SOMEONE IS KILLED BY OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

...TO CALM OYASHIRO-SAMA'S ANGER, A SACRIFICE IS TAKEN AND SUNK IN A BOTTOM-LESS SWAMP.

THE PRIEST WHO DIED OF AN ILLNESS ...

...AND HIS WIFE, WHO LEFT A WILL AND WENT MISSING.

THE MAN WHO SUPPORTED THE DAM PROJECT THAT FELL FROM A CLIFF...

...AND HIS MISSING WIFE.

THE MURDERED DIRECTOR OF THE DAM PROJECT...

...AND THE MURDER-ER THAT FLED.

THE PAST INCIDENTS HAVE SOME-THING IN COMMON OTHER THAN HAPPENING ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

ONE PERSON DIES, AND ONE DISAP-PEARS!

THEY ALL FOLLOW THE LEGEND!

SATOSHI HOJO

THE VICTIM'S NEPHEW BY MARRIAGE, SATOSHI HOJO-KUN, WENT MISSING.

AND ONE YEAR AGO, THE YEAR THE HOUSEWIFE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH.

SOMEONE DISAP-PEARED AGAIN.

I CAN ONLY THINK THAT SOMEONE FROM THE VILLAGE IS COMMITTING THE CRIME, IMITATING THE LEGEND.

THE MURDERER KILLS THE FIRST PERSON AS THE "CURSE"...

...AND KIDNAPS THE SECOND PERSON AS THE "SACRIFICE."

SATOSHI ...

HE TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS.

HE DIDN'T TRANSFER?

TH-THEN...

...WHO IN HINAMIZAWA ARE YOU SAYING DID IT!?

HEY! SHION!!

MAKING PASSES AT KEI-CHAN AGAIN!

MION?

OH, ONEE!

AH! はへ

TA (THUD)

TA

WELL, KEI-CHAN KEPT INSISTING THAT I GIVE HIM MY MEASURE-MENTS.♡

EH!?

M-M-MEA-SURE-MENTS!?

SFX: KUSU (CHUCKLE) KUSU

EVERY TIME I SEE THEM, THEY REALLY LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE.

DON'T LIE!

SFX: DOKI (BADUM) DOKI

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STUPID!?

AH HA HA

どきどき

IT'S NOT ONLY OUR FACES THAT LOOK ALIKE!

SEE? WE HAVE MATCHING UNDER-WEAR, TOO. ♡

KYAAA!

GABA (YANK)

LET'S GO TO THAT TENT! EVERY-ONE'S RESTING THERE.

Y-YEAH.

THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING

カナカナカナ

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

WOW, THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE.

IS THIS BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL AFRAID OF THE CURSE?

I WONDER WHO WILL DIE AND WHO WILL DISAPPEAR THIS YEAR.

THE CRIMINALS ARE FROM HINAMIZAWA...

MION...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS...?

MION! RENA, SATOKO!

YOOHOO! KEI-CHAN!

I GUESS WHAT TAKANO-SAN AND THE OTHERS SAID TO SCARE ME YESTERDAY IS REALLY GETTING TO ME.

CAN'T BE. I'M THINKING TOO HARD.

HEEEY!

LET'S HAVE A BLAST UNTIL THEN!

THE DANCE OFFERING IS AT THE END OF THE FESTIVAL!

YEAH!

NIPA (BEAM)

THANK YOU, SIR.

OH! RIKA-CHAN! THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU!

MY BATCHA MADE IT HERSELF.

WHEN I WAS IN THE CITY, I WAS AT CRAM SCHOOL ALL THE TIME. I COULD NEVER GO TO ANYTHING LIKE A FESTIVAL.

IT REALLY HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN TO A FESTIVAL.

THIS SUMMER, WE'LL ALL PLAY LOTS TOGETHER, SIR.

RIKA-CHAN.

NADE (PET) NADE なでなで

にぱー NIPAAA

K-KEI-CHAN!?

AND NOT ONLY SUMMER FESTIVALS, I COULDN'T GO TO FIREWORKS SHOWS OR TO THE BEACH. I SPENT EVERY SINGLE DAY OF SUMMER VACATION IN A CLASSROOM...

じめ～ JIMEEEE (DROOOOP)

ALLLL RIGHT! WE'LL PLAY ALL SUMMER!

YEAH!

ピンポーン PINPOOONG (DOORBELL)

G-GUYS.

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO SPEND SUMMER HINAMIZAWA-STYLE, KEI-CHAN!

WILL YOU BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH US, CITY BOY KEIICHI-SAN?

WE DON'T HAVE A BEACH, BUT WE CAN SWIM A LOT IN THE RIVER! WE CAN!

JUST WHAT I HOPED YOU'D SAY!!

IT'S ON, KEI-CHAN!!

料金
大人 500円
子供

NOW, KEI-CHAN! YOU CAN'T START SUMMER IN HINAMIZAWA WITHOUT CONQUERING ALL THE BOOTHS AT THE COTTON DRIFTING!

DA CDASH

YEAH!

SIGN. ADULT - ¥500; CHILD -

WOULD YOU HOLD BACK A LITTLE!? I'M RUNNING OUT OF PRIZES!

AH-HA-HA! SORRY, OTCHAN!

Y'KNOW ...

WE REALLY ARE AN UNBEATABLE TEAM!

I CAN'T MEET THE OTHER MION, "SHION," ANYMORE.

BUT HERE IN HINAMIZAWA, I HAVE MION...

YEAH!

I HAVE EVERY-ONE!

FROM NOW ON...

...WE'LL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.

YOU ARE FULL OF CURIOSITY.

EVERYONE'S EYES WILL BE ON THE PERFORMANCE.

THIS IS THE TIME I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

HEE-HEE-HEE. IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE DANCE OFFERING.

DON (POUND)

DODON

DON

DODON

ZA (STEP)

YOU MUST BE, TO SNEAK INTO THE "SEALED SAIGUDEN."

HEE-HEE-HEE. WHAT ON EARTH MIGHT BE HIDDEN INSIDE?

A SACRED PLACE, WHERE ONLY MEMBERS OF THE FURUDE FAMILY ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

A CURSE WHERE ONE PERSON DIES...

...AND ONE DISAPPEARS.

OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

THE FEAR OF THE FIFTH YEAR

...GRADUALLY

...CREPT UP ON US FROM BEHIND.

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY 1 END
COTTON DRIFTING ARC

THE RIPENED FEAR BECOMES REALITY.

AFTER HEARING SO MUCH, YOU MUST REALIZE.

THAT'S RIGHT... THE FUTON PACKED WITH COTTON IS A "PERSON" ...!

AND THAT HOE IS A DISSECTION TOOL, TO WRENCH OPEN THE BELLY!

DODON (P-POUND)

OYASHIRO-SAMA.

THAT IS THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF HINAMIZAWA.

NEXT VOLUME

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
COTTON DRIFTING ARC

If they need two sacrifices to match it up...

TO BE CONCLUDED

IT WAS A THUMP THUMP...

LIKE A CHILD JUMPING UP AND DOWN ON A WOODEN FLOOR...

WHO WILL SURVIVE?

ABOUT THE MANGA VERSION OF "COTTON DRIFTING ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI07

HELLO, I AM RYUKISHI07; I WROTE THE ORIGINAL STORY. I TRULY THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY: COTTON DRIFTING ARC" VOLUME ONE.

THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC" IS A STORY THAT FOCUSES MAINLY ON THE LEADER OF KEIICHI'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, MION. IT'S THE SECOND ARC OF ALL OF THE EIGHT ORIGINAL ARCS, AND IT'S THE ONE WITH THE STRONGEST LOVEY-DOVEY (LAUGH) ELEMENTS. PLEASE ENJOY SEEING THE NORMALLY BAD-MANNERED MION AS SHE MOVES AROUND IN CONFUSION, BLUSHING AS SHE GOES.

THE ORIGINAL DEPICTS THOSE PARTS IN PROSE, BUT THROUGH HOUJYOU-SENSEI'S POWER, THEY ARE NOW DEPICTED IN COMIC FORM, FANNING THE FLAMES EVEN MORE, AND IT TURNS INTO SOMETHING BIG! TRULY, THANK YOU, HOUJYOU-SENSEI! I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU KEEP DRAWING SUCH AN ADORABLE MION!

THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC" DOES HAVE A LOT OF THOSE SWEET SCENES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT HOLDS A TRAP-LIKE MYSTERIOUSNESS. IN REGARDS TO THE DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY FOR THE "COTTON DRIFTING ARC" IN THE ORIGINAL, THE CATCH COPY WAS, "IT HAS A LOWER DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY THAN THE 'ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC,' BUT IT IS EXTREMELY VICIOUS." PLEASE ENJOY THE VICIOUS TRAPS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Page 35
The word for "demon" Keiichi uses is **oni**. An oni is an ogre-like creature of Japanese legend, said to have two horns and wear a loincloth made of tiger's skin.

Page 39
Rena is playing a sort of memory game. A caller reads the first half of a proverb, and the players race to be the first to grab the card with the second half. "**Inu mo arukeba bou ni ataru**," literally "even a dog on a walk comes across a stick," means anyone may meet an unexpected fortune. "**Uma no mimi ni nembutsu**," literally "a sutra (Buddhist prayer) in a horse's ear," has a similar meaning to "pearls before swine," or wasted effort.

Page 89
Mochi is a kind of cake made with sticky rice. The rice is pounded with a heavy mallet and kneaded into a cake.

Page 127
Akiba is a nickname for *Akihabara*, a district in Tokyo that's famous for two things: electronic goods and anime-geek heaven. One of its main attractions is its maid and cosplay cafes, where otaku can enjoy being waited on by girls dressed in costumes.

Page 164
This time, the club is playing **Hanafuda**, or "flower cards," a Japanese card game invented to work around the Japanese government's ban on gambling card games. There are twelve suits to represent each month (each assigned a flower), and four cards in each suit. Different cards are given different point values, and certain combinations of cards are designated by names. Mion has *matsukiri bouzu* (pine-paulownia priest), which means she has all of the 20-point cards except for the Rainman. Satoko's *hanami de ippai* (a full flower viewing), has the *sakura* (cherry blossom) banner and the chrysanthemum sake cup (cherry blossoms and sake are two essentials for flower viewing). Rika's hand, *ino-shika-chou* (boar, deer, butterfly), is more straightforward — she has the *hagi* (clover) boar, the *momiji* (maple leaf) deer, and the *botan* (peony) butterfly.

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
COTTON DRIFTING ARC 1

RYUKISHI07
Yutori Houjyou

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: Shelby Peak

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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